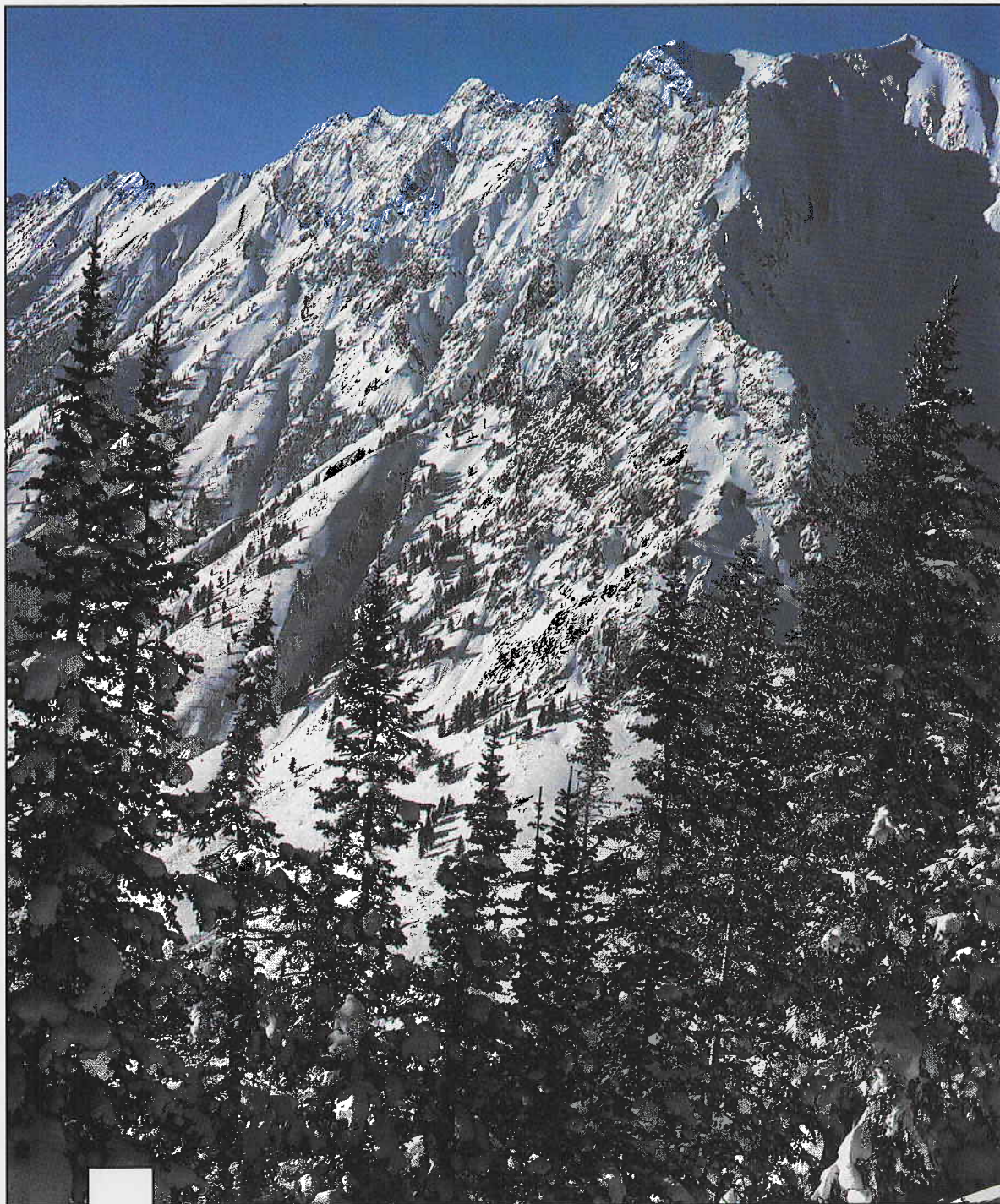


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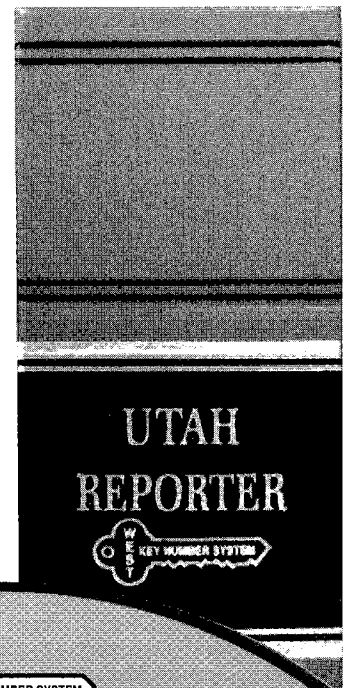
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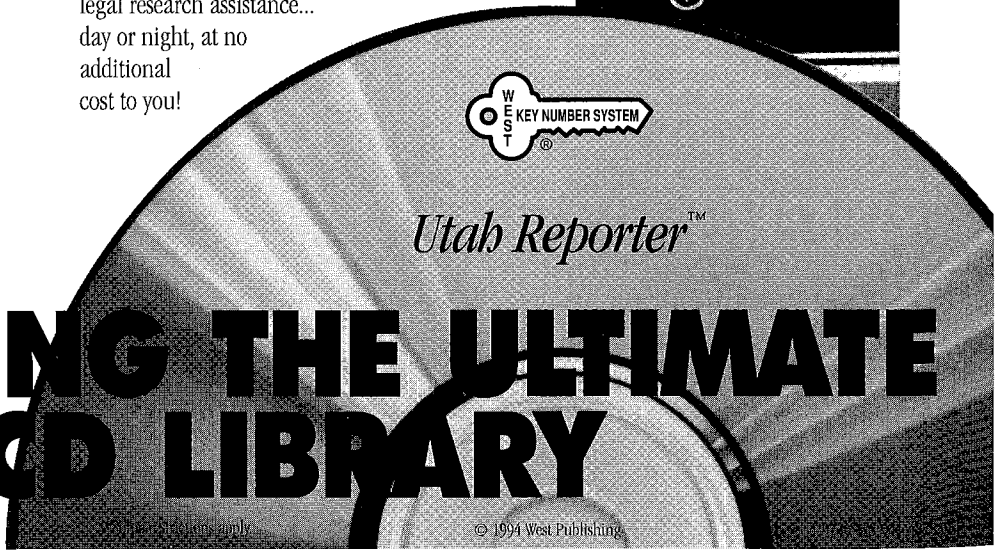
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COVER: Mt. Superior in Little Cottonwood Canyon taken from Alta by Harry Caston of McKay, Burton & Thurman.

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LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I recently read an article in the *Bar Journal* "Making a Difference in Three Hours – Domestic Violence Victims' Clinic to Assist Pro Se Litigants" by Mary Jane Ciccarello. This article caught my interest because of a program we have up and running in Davis County.

We started our Victim Assistance Program in 1987 and have assisted many victims throughout the years. However, in April of this year we organized a team of volunteers to go to the scene of domestic violence episodes after the area was secured. As a result of having the volunteers take blank Protective Order forms to the scene and assisting the victims in filling out these forms, our Court Commissioner began to see an influx of hearings scheduled.

I was sitting in with a victim during one hearing and realized how unfair this system appeared because the victim was at the table alone. I was in the courtroom trying to provide as much support as I could but it was terribly intimidating to the victim because her husband appeared with an attorney; the victim had no money to hire an attorney. After Court that day I spoke with Commissioner Michael G. Allphin and expressed my concern over such an unfair situation. Commissioner Allphin agreed and suggested that I get a pro bono program going. Utah Legal Services arranged for malpractice coverage for pro bono volunteers. I spoke to a Davis County Bar meeting and after presenting our program 14 attorneys signed up to volunteer their time to represent the victims of domestic violence during Protective Order Hearings.

The Pro Bono Program started the next

week. This Program is working and we are able to provide a great deal of assistance to the victims in Davis County.

We are very grateful to all of the volunteers in Davis County, especially Nelda Bishop who has really gone the extra mile in her efforts to coordinate this program. Lou Ann Blotter, the victim assistance coordinator, does such an outstanding job of working with the victims and making sure they are here in time to speak to an attorney as well as coordinating the cases with Commissioner Allphin and his Clerk, Carol Frazier. We applaud the work of these people and think we have a first class "Pro Bono Program" in Davis County.

Ellen Archibald
Administrative Assistant

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