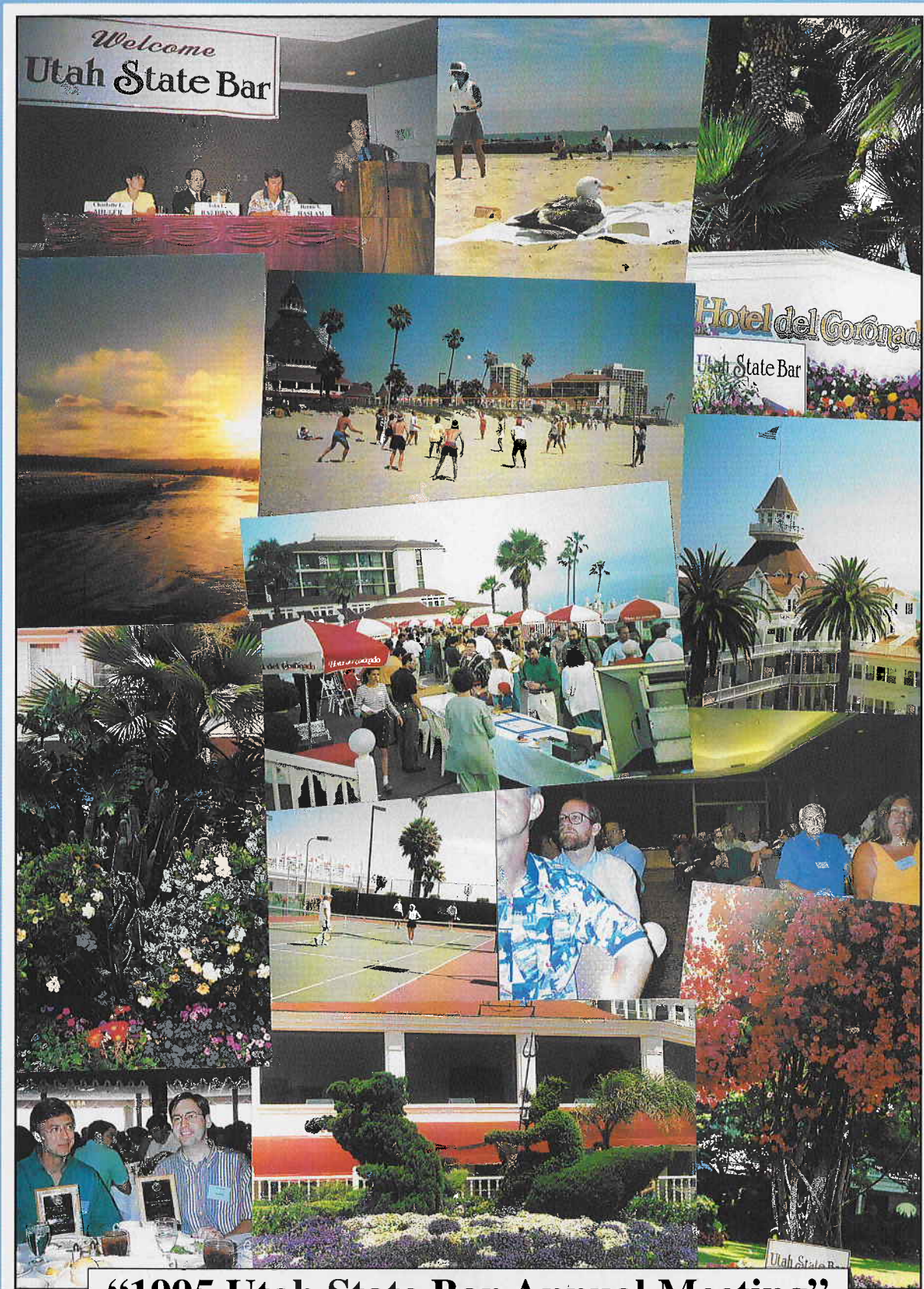


# UTAH BAR JOURNAL

Vol. 8 No. 7

August/September 1995



**“1995 Utah State Bar Annual Meeting”**



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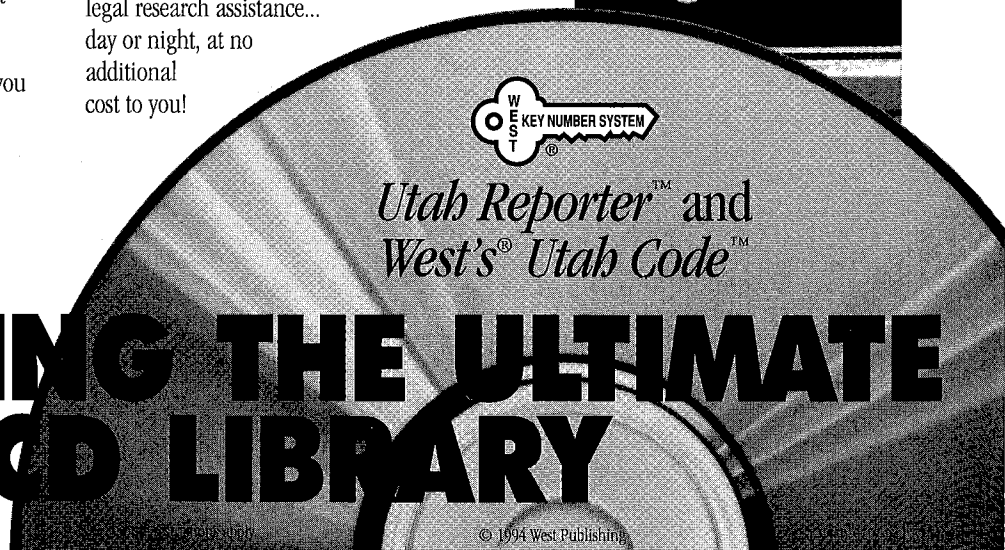
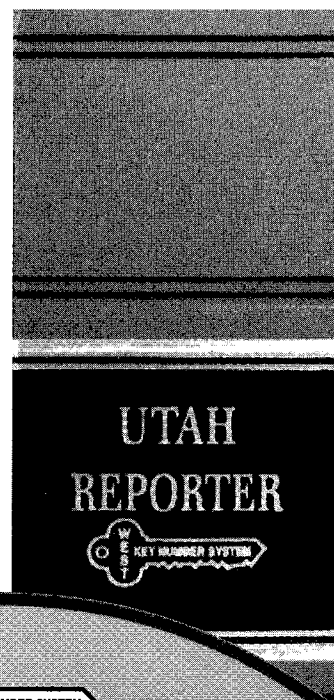
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COVER: Collage of people and sights at the 1995 Utah State Bar Annual Meeting in San Diego, California, by Patricia Thorpe.

Members of the Utah Bar who are interested in having photographs they have taken of Utah scenes published on the cover of the *Utah Bar Journal* should contact Randall L. Romrell, Associate General Counsel, Huntsman Chemical Corporation, 2000 Eagle Gate Tower, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84111, 532-5200. Send both the slide, transparency or print of each photograph you want to be considered.

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## LETTERS

Dear Editor:

This may only be my mid-life crisis talking, but Judge Page's article on the Simpson trial (Views from the Bench, Vol. 8, No. 6) touched a sympathetic nerve. I view with considerable alarm the state of the legal profession.

Lately I have come to the inescapable conclusion that our profession richly deserves all of the mistrust, contempt and ridicule that modern society can produce. Examples abound: as pointed out by Judge Page, the O.J. fiasco may well permanently destroy whatever credibility the criminal system ever enjoyed. The Baby Richard decision thoroughly eliminated any notion that juvenile justice works "in

the best interests of the child." Attorneys of the Oklahoma City bombing victims will now seek restitution, not from the bomber, but from the fertilizer manufacturer, demonstrating that an acute sense of justice is not nearly so important as an acute sense of where the bucks are. On the local scene, D.U.I. defense attorneys applaud the double jeopardy problems of coupling criminal convictions with license revocation, ensuring that there will be more drunk drivers on the road, not less.

The problem these cases represent is that attorneys and judges are clueless about even the most basic concepts of and societal values regarding truth-seeking, responsibility and justice. Doubly disheartening is the fact that they (we) act out of the firm conviction

that they (we) are upholding and advancing the best and noblest traditions of the legal profession. We should not be even vaguely surprised that the public considers us slime-sucking scumbags. To quote Pogo; "We have met the enemy and he is us."

Over the last several months I have come to regret my twenty-year investment in the law. If I had a nickel's worth of moral courage, I would bag it all, find an honorable profession and burn my Bar membership card on the steps of the Law and Justice Center (talk about your oxymorons).

Sincerely,  
Gavin J. Anderson, Esq.

### Medical Malpractice Prelitigation Panel Review Chairpersons Needed

The Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing is seeking attorneys who are licensed and in good standing in Utah to serve as chairpersons of medical malpractice prelitigation review panels. Prelitigation review is a condition precedent to commencing litigation under the Utah Health Care Malpractice Act. Panels are composed of an attorney, who serves as the chairperson; a lay panelist; and a health care provider who is practicing and knowledgeable in the same specialty as each proposed defendant.

Chairpersons must be available to serve on 3-5 panel hearings per month, each of which are normally restricted to two hours in length. Chairpersons will initially be required to attend a training seminar scheduled as part of the Division's Annual Meeting of the Board on September 20, 1995. The seminar will be submitted for CLE approval. Chairpersons responsibilities include conducting the panel hearing and drafting a supplemental panel opinion following the hearing.

This is a perfect opportunity for attorneys interested in medical malpractice to learn the profession. This is not a paid employment position; however, chairpersons receive a standard State of Utah per diem and are reimbursed for travel and parking expenses. Interested attorneys should send a letter and resume to the Prelitigation Coordinator at P.O. Box 45805, 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0805. Letters and resumes must be received no later than August 31, 1995.

### Bill of Rights Symposium

The J. Reuben Clark Law School's 1995 Bill of Rights Symposium is scheduled for Friday, October 27, 1995, from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm on the BYU Campus. This year's theme is "The Dilemma of American Federalism: Power to the People, the States, or the Central Government?" with Rex E. Lee as the keynote speaker. Other guest speakers include Governor Michael O. Leavitt; Judge Monroe McKay, 10th Circuit Court of Appeals; Judge J. Clifford Wallace, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals; Judge Dee Benson, U.S. District Court for Utah; Justice Frederick J. Martone, Arizona Supreme Court; Thomas B. McAfee, Southern Illinois College of Law; Cynthia C. Lebow, Department of Justice; Pace J. McConkie, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law; and Dr. Carlfred B. Broderick, University of Southern California. The Symposium will provide 6 hours of CLE, including 1 hour of ethics. Registration materials will be available after July 15th at the Law & Justice Center or you may call 378-7540 to request them.

