ANDREA DONAHUE TAPPED TO LEAD UTAH’S OFFICE OF LEGAL SERVICES INNOVATION

The Utah State Bar has appointed Andrea Donahue to lead Utah’s Office of Legal Services Innovation, a legal sandbox that seeks to improve access to justice by implementing innovative legal business models and services.

Donahue earned a B.A. in history from Carleton College in Minnesota and her J.D. from Stanford. Prior to law school, she focused on access to education issues in Massachusetts, working on a charter school/health care partnership model designed to help students pursue careers in the medical field.

In her legal career Donahue has worked with both traditional and non-traditional legal models and became familiar with Utah’s ground-breaking sandbox after Stanford University released a study on addressing the access to justice gap entitled “Legal Innovation After Reform.”

“I want to contribute to the Office of Legal Service Innovation’s continued role as a leader in exploring regulatory reform,” Donahue said. “I want to be part of the solution in improving legal services to the community.”
Donahue was a law clerk for Oakland’s Community and Lawyering Civil Rights Unit, which focuses on protecting the legal rights of under-resourced residents through a mix of litigation, community partnerships and policy development. She also externed for Judge Pattie B. Saris of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

She was the Michael P. Murphy Public Law Fellow for San Mateo County, CA, and spearheaded the Office’s impact litigation initiatives and engaged in advisory work. She was engaged in public policy projects for the county, including drafting local ordinances. Donahue then spent time as an associate at the California office of Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Propehite.

The Office of Legal Service Innovation was established in 2020. Since its inception, it has authorized 55 entities to provide innovative legal solutions in Utah.