

Stephen D. Kelson

Mediator

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▼ Professional Experience

Stephen has practiced law in Utah for more than 25 years and joined Christensen & Jensen in 2013. His experience includes litigating an extensive range of disputes in complex civil and tort cases through trial on behalf of plaintiffs and defendants. His expertise provides a direct and fair approach for parties to resolve disputes effectively and efficiently.

▼ Education

- Pepperdine Caruso School of Law, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, LL.M. (Dispute Resolution), 2023
- Pepperdine School of Law, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, MDR (Dispute Resolution), 2013
- J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University, J.D. 1999
- University of Utah, M.A., 1997
- University of Utah, B.A., 1995

▼ Recognitions

- Utah Council on Conflict Resolution, 2017 Peacekeeper Award
- Martindale Hubbell, AV Preeminent Rating
- *Utah Business Magazine*, Legal Elite, Civil Litigation, 2013-2016, 2018-2020; Arbitration/Mediation, 2017, 2021, 2022
- Utah Judicial Council, 2011 Utah Service to the Courts Award
- Mountain States Super Lawyers, 2021-Present
- Utah Dispute Resolution, Mediator of the Year, 2005
- *ABA Journal* (August 2017), profiled in “Problem Clients: For Two Decades A Utah Lawyer Has Quietly Studied Violence Against Attorneys.”

▼ Current Admissions

- Utah State Courts
- U.S. District Court of the District of Utah
- U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals

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▼ Professional and Civic Affiliations

- Utah Judicial Council Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, 2012-2013, 2021-Present
- Adjunct Professor, J. Reuben Clark School of Law, 2022 – Present (Negotiation Course)
- Utah State Courts
 - Utah Court Roster Mediator, 2002-Present; Divorce Roster Mediator, 2003-Present; Master Mediator
 - Pro Tempore Small Claims Judge, Third District Court (Taylorsville Justice Court), 2010-Present
 - Online Dispute Resolution Facilitators Subcommittee, Third District Court, 2017-2019
 - Online Dispute Resolution Facilitator, Third District Court, 2018-2022
- Utah Council on Conflict Resolution (UCCR), 2001-Present
 - Chair, 2014-2015; Board of Trustees, 2010-2024
- Utah Dispute Resolution (UDR)
 - President, 2022-Present; Board of Trustees, 2014-Present; Volunteer Mediator, 2000-Present
- Utah State Bar, Dispute Resolution Section (DRS), 2004-Present
 - Executive Chair, 2012-2013; Board of Trustees, 2009-2014
- Salt Lake City Kiwanis Club, 2008-Present
 - President, 2014-2015; Board of Trustees 2010-Present

▼ Sample Presentations and Publications

- Presentation, *Improve Your Negotiation Skills: What Kind of Negotiator Are you and How to Improve Your Negotiation Outcomes*, Salt Lake City District Attorney's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah, July 17, 2024.
- Presentation, *It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time: How to Make Effective Decisions Under Conflict*, ALI International 2024 International Client Seminar, Fajardo, Puerto Rico, March 3, 2024.
- Presentation, *Using Mediation to Improve Court Efficiency, Judicial Session 3, Panel Presentation*, invited co-present at 30th Annual International Law and Religion Symposium, Reuben Clark Law School, Provo, Ut October 3, 2023.
- Presentation, *Sources of Conflict, Communication and De-Escalation in Conflict, and What to Know w/ Dealing with Violence*, invited to co-present to the Utah Nonprofit Housing Corporation, Salt Lake City, Ut May 17, 2023.
- *Legal Professionals Are in Harm's Way*, in REDUCE YOUR RISK: A GUIDE TO PERSONAL SAFETY & SECURITY FOR THE LEGAL COMMUNITY 1-1 (State Bar of Wisconsin, Pinnacle 2023).
- *How to Avoid Inadequate Case Evaluation*, 42 UTAH TRIAL JOURNAL 8 (Spring 2019).