Orrin G. Hatch Distinguished Trial Lawyer Lecture Series

**Orrin G. Hatch Distinguished Trial Lawyer Lecture Series Mission Statement**

*To expose law students to the finest trial lawyers in America with the goal to teach, inspire, and motivate the next generation of trial advocates.*

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**Chair:** James W. Parkinson | **Vice Chair:** Justice Douglas P. Miller

**Director:** Judge Dee V. Benson | **Assistant Director:** Magistrate Judge Paul M. Warner

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**9:00–9:15**

**Opening Remarks**

Dean James R. Rasband
James W. Parkinson

**9:15–10:00**

**Keynote Address: “Why I Am a Trial Lawyer”**

Robert M. N. Palmer

**10:00–10:15**

**Break**

**10:15–11:15**

**“What Role Should Religious Beliefs Play in the Judicial Decision-making Process?”**

**Panel:** Justice Carol Corrigan, Judge Randy N. Smith, Professor Brett Scharffs
**Moderator:** Justice Douglas P. Miller

*Justice Miller will moderate a discussion on the judicial interpretation of laws and how a judge’s background and religious beliefs may influence the decision-making process.*

**11:15–12:15**

**Lunch and Speaker (by invitation)**

Justice Carol Corrigan

**1:00–2:00**

**“The Essential Art of Trial Preparation”**

**Panel:** Loren E. Weiss, Magistrate, Judge Brooke C. Wells, Stephen J. Hill
**Moderator:** Brett Parkinson

*Panelists will discuss the importance of beginning trial preparation when meeting a client for the first time. The presentation will include a discussion of the effective methods of trial preparation that occur during the entire course of the case.*

**2:00–3:00**

**“Secrets of a Successful Trial”**

**Panel:** Robert M. N. Palmer, Ronald J. Yengich, Judge Rodney A. Cortez
**Moderator:** James W. Parkinson

*Jim Parkinson will moderate a panel of master trial lawyers. The panelists will discuss successful strategies utilized in the art of jury persuasion.*
Justice Carol Corrigan
Justice Corrigan attended the then women-only Catholic Holy Names College in Oakland, California. She received her JD from the University of California Hastings College of the Law in 1975 and was admitted to the State Bar of California in the same year. At UC Hastings, she served as notes and comments editor of the Hastings Law Journal. She worked as a prosecutor in Alameda County, California, from 1975 to 1987, at which time she was appointed to the since-abolished Municipal Court. A judge of the California Superior Court, Corrigan became a justice of the California Court of Appeal in 1994. She has served as associate justice of the California Supreme Court since 2005.

Judge Rodney A. Cortez
Judge Cortez graduated in 1992 from BYU with a BA in communications and graduated in 1995 from J. Reuben Clark Law School. He was a prosecutor with the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Office for 11 years. His trial work included both felonies and misdemeanors. He worked five years in the Hardcore Gang and Career Criminal Prosecution Unit, including high-profile gang murders, robberies, and carjackings. Cortez was nominated as Prosecutor of the Year for the State of California in 2005. He was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as judge of the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of San Bernardino on November 3, 2006, and is assigned to the criminal trial courtroom.

Senator Orrin G. Hatch
Orrin Hatch earned a bachelor’s degree in history at BYU and a law degree at the University of Pittsburgh. He served as an attorney in Pittsburgh from 1952 to 1959 and with various firms in Salt Lake City from 1959 to 1976. As a statesman, Orrin Hatch is perhaps best known for his chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee, a position in which he served from 1995 to 2001 and again from 2003 to 2005. He has also been chairman of the Labor and Human Resources Committee (now called the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee), serving from 1981 to 1987. Senator Hatch is Utah’s longest-serving senator, in office since 1977.

Stephen J. Hill
Steve Hill received his BA from BYU in 1973 and his JD from BYU Law School in 1977. Currently, he works for Parr Brown Gee & Loveless, in Salt Lake City, practicing commercial litigation with an emphasis on antitrust and intellectual property litigation as well as venture financing. Most notably, he was co-counsel for the litigation team that successfully negotiated a substantial settlement for client Caldera against Microsoft. In a classic David-and-Goliath case, Hill and his team spent four years on the case, which had a significant impact on the computer industry. In addition to his law practice, he is a member of the board of directors of Linux Network, Inc., and Western Odyssey, Inc., and formerly served as president and CEO of Linux Network. He was listed in the 2007–2009 editions of Utah Business Magazine’s Legal Elite in business litigation.

Justice Douglas P. Miller
Born in Whittier, California, Justice Miller attended Brigham Young University, graduating in 1975. He was awarded his JD in 1978 from Pepperdine University School of Law. He practiced law at the Law Offices of Thomas T. Anderson in Indio, California, from 1978 through 1995. In 1995, Justice Miller was appointed to the Riverside Superior Court, where he served as the presiding judge from January 2003 to December 2004. He was appointed to the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Division Two, in June of 2006.

Robert M. N. Palmer
Robert Palmer limits his practice to representing catastrophically or fatally injured victims of negligently and defectively designed products. He has tried and handled product liability litigation in 34 states and tried over 50 jury trials as lead attorney. He has obtained verdicts and judgments for his clients in excess of $10 million, including a recent verdict in St. Louis County for $21 million. Palmer is a certified Civil Trial Advocate by the NBTA and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys (Executive Committee), and the American Association for Justice (Board of Governors).

Brett Parkinson
Brett Parkinson has been an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Utah since 2005. Currently, he is chief of the Immigration Unit and is responsible for prosecuting a variety of immigration-related offenses in federal court. Prior to this assignment, Parkinson’s caseload consisted of a variety of cases including immigration, fraud, identity theft, etc. Before joining the U.S. Attorney’s Office, he was law clerk to two federal judges, the Honorable Dee Benson, District of Utah; and the Honorable Monroe G. McKay, Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

James W. Parkinson
Jim Parkinson received his JD in 1976 from J. Reuben Clark Law School. He is a member of numerous professional associations and has been a recipient of a number of awards, including the Trial Lawyers of America Citation of Excellence. He was the J. Reuben Clark Law School Honored Alumnus in 2007. Along with his coauthor, Lee Benson, Parkinson was awarded the Author of the Year by Naval Institute Press in 2006 for their book, Soldier Slaves: Abandoned by the White House, Courts, and Congress. Jim resides in California, where he is in private practice.

Dean James R. Rasband
Dean Rasband is dean and Hugh W. Colton Professor of Law at the J. Reuben Clark Law School. He received his BA from BYU in 1986 and his JD from Harvard in 1989. Dean Rasband joined the BYU Law School faculty in 1995. Before becoming dean, he served as associate academic vice president for faculty at the university. Prior to entering academe, he served as law clerk to Judge J. Clifford Wallace of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and practiced law in Seattle. He has taught courses in public lands and natural resources law, water law, torts, and international environmental law. Dean Rasband has published a number of articles and book chapters and is coauthor of Natural Resources Law and Policy, a casebook that is used in law schools across the country.

Brett Scharffs
Brett Scharffs is a professor at BYU Law School and associate director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies. His teaching and scholarly interests include law and religion, philosophy of law, and international business law. Scharffs is a graduate of Georgetown University, where he received a BSBA in international business and an MA in philosophy. He was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University, where he earned a BPhil in philosophy. He received his JD from Yale Law School, where he was senior editor of the Yale Law Journal. He was a law clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit. Before teaching at BYU, he worked as an attorney in New York. He is currently the program chair of the Law and Religion Section of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS).
Judge Randy N. Smith

Randy N. Smith attended BYU, where he received his BS degree in 1974 and his JD in 1977. He moved to Idaho that year and from 1977 to 1981 served as associate/assistant general counsel for the J. R. Simplot Company, while also teaching law at Boise State University from 1979 to 1981. In 1981 he joined the law firm Merrill & Merrill, where he remained for 13 years, first as an associate, then becoming partner in 1984. The same year he also began a long second career as an adjunct professor at Idaho State University. He left private practice in 1995 to become a trial judge for the Sixth Judicial District of Idaho, a position he held until his confirmation to the Ninth Circuit. Smith is the seventh judge appointed by President George W. Bush to the Ninth Circuit, and the first Article III judge confirmed by the United States Senate of the 110th Congress.

Loren E. Weiss

Loren Weiss received his JD, cum laude, from the University of San Diego in 1972 and his BA, with honors, from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1969. He is a shareholder of VanCott Bagley Cornwall & McCarthy and a member of the firm’s Litigation Practice Group and chairs the White-Collar Crime and Compliance Group. He focuses his practice in the area of criminal defense, emphasizing white-collar criminal defense, corporate compliance, and internal investigations, as well as complex civil litigation. From 1993 to 1999 he taught prosecution function, defense function, advanced evidence, and criminal trial practice as an adjunct professor at J. Reuben Clark Law School. Weiss has lectured widely on topics related to federal criminal law, including fraud prosecutions and investigations, evidence, trial skills, and federal sentencing guidelines.

Magistrate Judge Brooke C. Wells

Brooke C. Wells was the first Utah woman inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Board of Criminal Lawyers. In 1988 she was named the Utah Woman Lawyer of the Year. She was later appointed Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Utah. During her service as an assistant U.S. attorney, Judge Wells created and implemented a firearms violence reduction project and worked with the Salt Lake City Police Department to create a hate crimes training program. Currently she works as a U.S. magistrate judge for the District of Utah in the U.S. Court.

Ronald J. Yengich

Ronald Yengich is a senior partner at Yengich, Rich & Xaiz in Salt Lake City, specializing in criminal defense. He graduated from Bellarmine College in history and received his JD from the University of Utah College of Law. An adjunct professor in the University of Utah’s Political Science Department, he has authored multiple articles, coauthored a book, and was a columnist for Private Eye Newspaper for seven years. He was a presenter in “Dialogue on Freedom,” a PBS production that aired July 2002. Yengich has served on multiple committees throughout the past 29 years, including the Utah Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers as the legislative coordinator, 1991-2001. He is currently a fellow of the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law.