



Stephen L. Adams

Attorney

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Stephen represents insurance companies, hospitals and professionals involved in litigation ranging from professional malpractice to appellate to personal injury. Stephen plays an active role in the firm's motion practice and his colleagues often refer to him as the "Rules guru" because of his ability to quickly identify the intricacies of the law and present the client's position through innovative, persuasive and concise motions. Stephen really enjoys researching and writing because it is one of the few places where true creativity may be expressed in the practice of law.

Stephen's appellate experience includes briefing and arguing insurance defense, business litigation, and governmental defense (including: contractual litigation, employment litigation, statutory interpretation, and constitutional law) cases before the Idaho Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Stephen is an at-Large Board Member of the Idaho State Bar's appellate practice section and he was on the editorial board for the last two editions of the *Idaho Appellate Handbook*.

Stephen's prior professional experience includes:

- Serving as a **staff attorney** for the Honorable Lynn Norton, Fourth Judicial District Court where he analyzed and drafted court decisions at every stage of both civil and criminal proceedings.
- Working as an **associate attorney** at a Boise-based law firm where he represented clients in insurance defense, governmental defense and education law cases.
 - Obtaining attorney fees for defense clients on appeal before the Idaho Supreme Court and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.
 - Obtaining dispositive summary judgments and dismissals on behalf of numerous governmental, business, and individual clients.
- Serving as an **adjunct professor at Utah Valley University** in the Legal Studies Department of the Woodbury School of Business, where he taught Bankruptcy and Collections, Wills, Trusts and Probate, Introduction to American Law, Business

Law, Evidence and Torts.

Stephen is admitted to practice in Idaho and Utah.

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- At-large Board Member, Appellate Practice section, Idaho State Bar (ISB)
- Member, Idaho Association of Defense Counsel (IADC)

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- Author, "The How's and When's of Permissive Appeals," *The Advocate*, Vol. 61, No. 5 (May, 2018) - *The Idaho State Bar Appellate Practice Section earned the distinction of "Best Sponsored Issue" of The Advocate in 2017-18 for this issue.*
- Author, "The Default Judgment Tool Kit," *The Advocate*, Vol. 60, No. 2 (Feb. 2017) – *The Idaho State Bar Real Property Section earned the distinction of "Best Sponsored Issue" of The Advocate in 2016-17 for this issue.*
- Author, "Listing the Canons of Construction," *The Advocate*, Vol. 59, No. 5 (May 2016)
- Co-Author, "Excerpts from the Idaho Appellate Handbook Show its Usefulness," *The Advocate*, Vol. 58, No. 8 (Aug. 2015)
- Co-Author, "Preserving Issues for Appeal: Leaving Breadcrumbs for the Way Home," *The Advocate*, Vol. 58, No. 8 (Aug. 2015)
- Author, "Following the Recipe: A Rules Reminder for Motion Practice," *The Advocate*, Vol. 58, No. 2 (Feb. 2015) - *Stephen was awarded "Article of the Year" by The Advocate's Editorial Board for writing this article*
- Author, "Dealing with Sham Affidavits in Idaho Courts," *The Advocate*, Vol. 57, No. 8 (Aug. 2014)
- Author, "An Update on Attorney Fees in Cases Involving Governmental Entities," *The Advocate*, Vol. 56, No. 8 (Aug. 2013)
- Author, "Practical and Ethical Issues when Dealing with a Pro Se Litigant," *The Advocate*, Vol. 54, No. 3/4 (March 2011)

IRRELEVANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Stephen once baked approximately 140,000 calories of cheesecake in one week. Amusingly, though Stephen makes a mean cheesecake, he doesn't really like cheesecake all that much.
- Stephen has over 1000 classical CDs, including the entire collected works of Bach.
- In 12th grade, Stephen participated in a science competition where he had to build a Rube Goldberg machine designed to get a golf ball into a paper cup (which started upside down) in exactly two minutes. When Stephen started the machine, it almost literally exploded, shooting the golf ball a good 20 yards away (luckily not hitting anyone). Despite this, Stephen still got 3rd place.

EDUCATION

- Brigham Young University, B.A. in Music
- Vanderbilt University Law School, J.D.