



OFFICE OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY

ERIC CLARKE | WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY

TELEPHONE: 435-634-5723

33 NORTH 100 WEST | SUITE 200 | ST. GEORGE, UTAH 84770

WWW.WASHCO.UTAH.GOV/DEPARTMENTS/ATTORNEY

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## Washington County's Own, Ryan Shaum, named the Utah Prosecution Council's 2023 Prosecutor of the Year

**Provo, Utah**— On April 18th and 19th prosecutors from across the state of Utah gathered in Provo for the Utah Prosecution Council's (UPC) annual conference and training. The event culminated with an awards ceremony where Washington County's very own Chief Deputy County Attorney and Lead Prosecutor Ryan Shaum received the UPC's 2023 Prosecutor of the Year award.

Washington County Attorney Eric Clarke helped present Shaum with this well-deserved award saying, "Despite a highly successful, 30-year career as a prosecutor, it is difficult to imagine Ryan having ever had a more impactful year than 2023."

Clarke went on to describe Shaum's contributions to Washington County, the State of Utah, and the prosecution profession in three distinct areas.

The first focus area addressed Shaum's leadership of the Washington County Attorney's Office Special Victims Unit. Although Shaum oversees all criminal case assignments in the Washington County Attorney's Office, his leadership approach is to be in the trenches with his team. This is why in 2023 he committed to personally second chair a trial with each of the three Special Victims Unit prosecutors he supervises.

Second, as the Washington County Attorney's Office, like many other organizations in 2023, faced staffing shortages, Shaum stepped up to personally cover caseloads until additional attorneys could be retained. Despite not having personally prosecuted a misdemeanor case in decades, Shaum gladly shouldered the load to ensure other attorneys in the office were not too overwhelmed.

Lastly, Shaum is one of two attorneys that prosecuted the high-profile Ruby Franke and Jodi Hildebrandt cases. As the world's attention was on Washington County, Shaum kept his eye on the case at hand, the evidence, and the well-being of the child-victims. From the day the children were first discovered through the sentencing and appeal period, Shaum worked closely with law enforcement officials and victim-resource providers. Crucially, Shaum used the media-management experience he gained during the high-profile Warren Jeffs' trial to protect the integrity of the Franke / Hildebrandt prosecution while being transparent and accountable to the public.

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Press Information Officer:

Deputy County Attorney: Courtney Brinkerhoff Sinagra

(435) 301-7100 · courtney.sinagra@washco.utah.gov