**Stephen L. Nelson**

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**Education**:

**University of Utah, Department of Political Science, SLC, UT**

**Ph.D., 2010**

Fields: American Government and Public Administration

Dissertation: “The King’s Wrongs and the Federal District Courts: Understanding the Discretionary Function Exception to the Federal Tort Claims Act” (Chair: Dr. Richard Green)

2003 Robert H. Hinckley Graduate Scholarship

2002-2003 Scott M. Matheson Fellowship in Public Policy

**University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law, SLC, UT**

**J.D., 2002**

Senior Staff Member, Utah Law Review

**Westminster College, SLC, UT**

**B.A. (Economics), 1999**

Student Body President, 1998-1999

**Recent Employment**:

**District Court Judge, Third District Court, Utah State Courts, SLC, UT**

West Jordan West Jordan District Court, 2024-Present

**Instructor, University of Utah, Department of Political Science, SLC, UT**

Assistant Professor (Lecturer), 2021-Present

Associate Instructor, 2016-2021

Adjunct Instructor, 2004-2016

**Assistant United States Attorney, United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Utah, SLC, UT**

National Security and Cybercrime Section, 2023

District of Utah Anti-Gang Coordinator, 2017-2023

Organized Crime Section, 2022-2023

Violent Crime Section, 2017-2022

Narcotics Section, 2016-2017

**Deputy District Attorney, Salt Lake County District Attorney’s Office, SLC, UT**

Unit Chief, Juvenile Prosecution Unit, 2015-2016

Unit Chief, Violent Felonies Unit, 2013-2015

Special Assistant United States Attorney, District of Utah, 2008-2016

Organized Gang Prosecution Team, 2007-2013

Homicide Team, 2008-2011

Narcotics Enforcement Team, 2005-2007

Misdemeanor Team, 2005

**Assistant Attorney General, Utah Attorney General’s Office, SLC, UT**

Children’s Justice Division, 2002-2005

**Publications:**

“Chapter 8: *Batson* Issues,” Stephen L. Nelson and Stewart M. Young, A Prosecutor’s Reference Guide for Trial Problems, 1st ed., Office of Legal Education (OLE), Dep’t of Just. (November 2020) (part of the DOJ OLE Litigation Series).

“The Small but Powerful Voice in American Elections: A Discussion of Voting Rights Litigation on Behalf of American Indians,” Jennifer L. Robinson and Stephen L. Nelson, Baylor L. Rev. (Fall 2018).

“Administrative DREAM Acts: Examining State Higher Education Governing Board Policies Regarding In-State Tuition for Undocumented Immigrant Students,” Stephen L. Nelson, J.L. Robinson, A. Bergevin, Georgetown Immig. L.J., Vol. 28, pp. 555-596 (Spring 2015).

“States Taking Charge: Examining the Role of Race, Party Affiliation, and Preemption in the Development of In-State Tuition Laws for Undocumented Immigrant Students,” Stephen L. Nelson, J. L. Robinson, and K. H. Glaubitz, Michigan J. of Race and Law, Vol. 19, pp. 247-286 (Spring 2014).

“Reduced Tuition Benefits for Undocumented Immigrant Students: The Implications of a Piecemeal Approach to Policymaking,” Stephen L. Nelson, K. H. Glaubitz, and J. L. Robinson, Santa Clara L.Rev, Vol. 53 pp. 897-936 (Spring 2013).

“The King’s Wrongs and the Federal District Courts: Understanding the Discretionary Function Exception to the Federal Tort Claims Act,” Stephen L. Nelson, South Texas L. Rev., Vol. 51, pp. 101- 147 (Fall 2010).

“Families in Crisis, Challenges for Policymakers: Examining the Troubled Lives of Drug Endangered Children,” Stephen L. Nelson, K. Prince, & M. Searcy, Ohio Northern L. Rev., Vol. 36, No. 1, pp. 81-114 (2009).

“Snapshots of Suspects and Defendants: A Discussion of Arrest

and Prosecution Outcomes in Drug Endangered Children Cases,” Stephen L. Nelson, K. Prince & M. Searcy, Quinnipiac L. Rev., Vol. 27, No. 4, pp. 837-880 (2009).

**Conference and Invited Presentations:**

“Demystifying the Federal Prosecution Sphynx: A Discussion of Federal Law Pertaining to Firearm Possession Restrictions and Opioid Overdose Deaths in the University Campus Context,” 1st Annual University of Utah Department of Public Safety Campus Safety Conference; Salt Lake City, Utah, March 2, 2023.

“Should We Go Federal or State? The Benefits of Federal Versus State Narcotics Investigations and Prosecutions,”31st Annual Utah Narcotics Officers’ Association Conference; Mesquite, Nevada, August 10, 2022 (with Stewart M. Young).

“On Federal/State Partnerships and Productivity: The Utah Gang Initiative’s Successes (and Shortcomings) for Statistically Reducing Gang Crime,” 30th Annual Salt Lake Area Gang Project Gang Conference; Sandy, Utah, August 4, 2022 (with Stewart M. Young).

Four presentations at the 25th International Gang Specialist Training Conference, National Gang Crime Research Center; Chicago, Illinois, August 2-3, 2022 (with Stephen Nelson), including:

* *Glenmob, Salty Gangsters and Northern Exposure: A Discussion of State/Federal Cooperation in the Context of Investigating and Prosecuting a Hybrid Gang;*
* *Federal Gang Prosecution in a Post-First Step Act World: Discussing the Impact of Federal Criminal Justice Reform as it Relates to Gang Members;*
* *Prosecuting MS-13 Leaders for Transnational Terrorism Offenses? The Ranfla Nacional and “Blue” Federal Prosecutions as a Paradigm Shift in the Federal Government; and*
* *Coordinating Your Response: A Discussion of State/Federal Cooperation in the Context of Officer-Involved Critical Incidents Involving Violent Gang Members.*

“Complex Crime Investigations Symposium,” FBI and DOJ International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) Symposium; Belgrade, Serbia, May 9-11, 2022 (with Stewart M. Young), an in-country three-day seminar entitled “The Agony & Ecstasy: Thrills, Chills, and Spills in Practical Complex Investigations Management,” with topics including:

* *Introduction to Reactive Investigations;*
* *Internal Protocols and External Diplomacy in Reactive Investigations: A Discussion about Staying Organized and In Good Standing with Partners During Complex Reactive Investigations;*
* *Introduction to Proactive Investigations;*
* *Internal Protocols and External Diplomacy in Proactive Investigations: A Discussion about Staying Organized and In Good Standing with Partners During Complex Investigations;*
* *Working Effectively with Cooperators;*
* *Working Effectively with International Partners on Complex Investigations*
* *Electronic Evidence, Phone Evidence, Exploitation of Phones, Computers, WhatsApp, and Messaging;*
* *Relationship Maintenance/Diplomacy with Prosecutor Partners in Complex Investigations;*
* *Trial Preparation and Trial Execution with Complex Investigations; and*
* *Relationship Maintenance/Diplomacy with Law Enforcement Partners in Complex Investigations.*

“Demystifying the Federal Prosecution Sphynx: An Introduction to Reactive and Proactive Gang Investigations in the Federal System”, 4th Annual Utah Gang Investigators’ Association Conference; Wendover, Nevada, April 15, 2022 (with Stewart M. Young).

“The Agony and the Ecstasy: Thrills, Chills, and Spills in Practical Wiretap Management,” United States Department of Justice National Advocacy Center Title III Seminar, Columbia South Carolina (via WebEx), December 1, 2021 (with Stewart M. Young).

2021 Utah Narcotics Officers Association Conference, “Should We Go Federal Or State?: The Benefits of Federal Versus State Narcotics Investigations and Prosecutions,” Mesquite, Nevada, August 9-10, 2021 (with Stewart M. Young).

Two presentations at the 29th Annual Salt Lake Area Gang Project Gang Conference: Sandy, Utah, August 4, 2021, including:

* *Federal Firearms Investigations and Prosecutions: Understanding Process, Preparation, and Prosecution, in the Federal System* (with Stewart Young and Johnathan Lee); and
* *Operation Northern Exposure* (with Stewart Young, Tad May, James Morton and Ryan Stocking).

23rd International Gang Specialist Training Conference, National Gang Research Center,“Glenmob (“We Mob a Little Different”): A Discussion of State/Federal Cooperation in the Context of Investigating” and “Prosecuting a Hybrid Gang and Federal Gang Prosecution in a Post-First Step Act World: Discussing the Impact of Federal Criminal Justice Reform as it Relates to Gang Members;” Chicago, Illinois, August 2-3, 2021 (with Stewart M. Young).

2019FBI Executive Command College,“Investigating and Prosecuting Death-Resulting Drug Cases,” West Yellowstone, Montana, October 22, 2019 (with Stewart M. Young).

2019Annual Utah Gang Investigator’s Association Conference,“Glenmob Investigation and Prosecution Case Study,” Wendover, Nevada, September 27, 2019 (with Stewart M. Young and Ryan Stocking).

2019 Utah Narcotics Officers Association Conference, “Investigating and Prosecuting Death-Resulting Drug Cases,” St. George, Utah, August 14-15, 2019 (with Aaron B. Clark).

22nd International Gang Specialist Training Conference, National Gang Research Center,“Glenmob (“We Mob a Little Different”): A Discussion of State/Federal Cooperation in the Context of Investigating” and “Prosecuting a Hybrid Gang and Federal Gang Prosecution in a Post-First Step Act World: Discussing the Impact of Federal Criminal Justice Reform as it Relates to Gang Members;” Chicago, Illinois, August 5-6, 2019 (with Ryan Stocking, Stewart M. Young and Tad May).

29th Annual Utah Gang Conference *“*Glenmob: We Mob a Little Different,” and “Federal Gang Prosecution Updates: What is New and Not So New at the U.S. Attorney’s Office.” Sandy, Utah, April 17-18, 2019 (with Ryan Stocking, Stewart M. Young and Tad May).

2018 Utah Narcotics Officers Association Conference, “A New Model for Federal Gang Prosecutions: A Discussion of the Utah Gang Initiative” and “Federal Caselaw Update,” St. George, Utah, August 15-16, 2018.

21st International Gang Specialist Training Conference, National Gang Research Center, “A New Prosecution Leadership Model in Anti-Gang Efforts: A Discussion of the Utah Gang Initiative,” Chicago, Illinois, August 8, 2018 (with Stewart M. Young).

28th Annual Utah Gang Conference, “The Agony and the Ecstasy: Headaches, Pitfalls and Successes in Federal Gang Cases,” Salt Lake City, Utah, April 25, 2018 (with Stewart M. Young).

2017 Utah Gang Investigator’s Association Annual Conference, “Prosecuting Federal Gun Cases,” West Jordan, Utah, November 14, 2017 (with Stewart M. Young).

Salt Lake Legal Defenders Association CLE, “Gangs and Cartels 101,” Salt Lake City, Utah, November 8, 2017 (with Stewart M. Young).

2017 Utah Gang Investigators Association Conference, “A New Model for Federal Gang Prosecutions: A Discussion of the Utah Gang Initiative,” November 15, 2017, West Jordan, Utah (with Stewart M. Young).

20th International Gang Specialist Training Conference, National Gang Research Center, “A New Model for Federal Gang Prosecutions: A Discussion of the Utah Gang Initiative,” August 9, 2017, Chicago, IL.

2017 Utah Narcotics Officers Association Conference, “10th Circuit Court of Appeals Search and Seizure Caselaw Update and Discussion of Utah Gang Initiative,” August 21, 2017, Mesquite, Nevada.

2017 U.S. Deputy Wardens Association National Conference, “A New Model for Federal Gang Prosecutions: A Discussion of the Utah Gang Initiative,” August 1, 2017, Park City, Utah.

2017 Utah Gang Conference, “A New Model for Federal Gang Prosecutions: A Discussion of the Utah Gang Initiative in the context of *U.S. v. Hector Renteria*,” April 19-20, 2017, Sandy, Utah.

2016 Utah Violent Crimes Conference, “Coerced Confessions,” September 8, 2016, West Valley City, UT.

2015 Utah Violent Crimes Conference, “When Officers are Attacked: Thoughts and Perspectives on Jury Trials Involving Police Officers as Victims of Violent Crime,” September 9, 2015, West Valley City, UT.

2014 Utah Violent Crimes Conference, “Attempted Murder: One of the Most Difficult Crimes to Prove,” September 4, 2014, West Valley City, UT.

2014 International Family Violence and Child Victimization Conference, “Not Just a Federal Offense: Examining State Laws Criminalizing Human Trafficking,” July 14, 2014, Portsmouth, NH.

2013 National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference, “Discussing State Legislation Criminalizing Drug Endangerment: The Implications of a “Piecemeal Approach” to Policymaking,” November 20, 2013, Oklahoma City, OK.

1st Annual Utah Robbery Conference, “Courtroom Testimony: Tips and Training for Effective Case Managers,” October 11, 2013, Salt Lake City, UT.

2012 National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference, “The Constitutional and Evidentiary Issues in DEC Prosecutions: An Examination of Appellate Challenges to State DEC Laws,” October 24, 2012, Des Moines, IA.

36th National Organization for Victim Assistance Conference, “Families in Crisis, Challenges for Policymakers: Examining the Troubled Lives of Drug-Endangered Children,” August 22, 2010, Salt Lake City, UT.

59th Annual Session of the University of Utah School on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies, “A Retrospective Study of Drug Endangered Children and Caregivers,” June 22, 2010, Salt Lake City, UT.

2009 Utah Drug Endangered Children Conference, “Salt Lake County Drug Endangered Children Cases Research Project,” August 5, 2009, Salt Lake City, UT.

58th Annual Session of the University of Utah School on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies, “A Retrospective Study of Drug Endangered Children and Caregivers,” June 23, 2009, Salt Lake City, UT.

2008 National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference, “Evaluated Programs: the Comprehensive Approach to Drug Endangered Children,” October 7, 2008, Salt Lake City, UT.

2008 International Family Violence and Child Victimization Conference, “Working Together to Protect Child Victims: Identifying Gaps in Services to Those Who Endanger Children in Utah,” July 28, 2008, Portsmouth, NH.

2007 National Drug Endangered Children Conference, “Child Endangerment Prosecutions: What Happens to These Cases and Why?,” October 11, 2007, Kansas City, MO.

2007 Utah Drug Endangered Children Conference, “From Charges to Convictions: A Collaborative Approach,” August 9, 2007, SLC, UT.

2006 Utah Drug Endangered Children Conference, “Collecting Evidence for a Prosecutable Child Endangerment Case,” August 18, 2006, SLC, UT.

**University/College Courses Taught:**

**University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, 2004-Present:**

Immigration and Refugee Policy (PADMN 6995)

Policy Analysis (PADMN 6323)

Administrative Theory (PADMN 6300)

Public Administration and Law (PADMN 6210)

Policy Analysis (POLS 5323)

Judicial Process (POLS 5120)

Constitutional Law (POLS 5211)

Advanced American Government (POLS 5100)

Environmental Politics (POLS 3390)

Introduction to Public Policy (POLS 3320)

Introduction to Public Administration (POLS 3300)

Introduction to Criminal Jurisprudence (POLS 3220)

Introduction to Law and Politics (POLS 3200)

State and Local Government (POLS 3030)

Introduction to American Government (POLS 1100)

**Salt Lake Community College, Taylorsville, UT, 2006-2011:**

Introduction to Macroeconomics (Econ 2020)

Economic History of the United States (Econ 1740)

Economics as a Social Science (Econ 1010)

**Westminster College, SLC, UT, 2002:**

Introduction to Constitutional Law and Civil Liberties (POLS 355)

**Service**:

Member, United States District Court for the District of Utah Magistrate Selection Committee, 2019-2023

Chair, Salt Lake Area Metro Gang Project Governing Board, August 2021-August 2022

Member, Salt Lake Area Metro Gang Project Governing Board, 2016-2023

Member, Salt Lake Area Metro Gang Project Choose Gang Free Steering Committee, 2016-2023

Member, Utah Supreme Court Model Utah Jury Instructions Committee, 2015-2022

Chair, Needs Assessment and Data Collection Work Group, National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, 2011-2016

Member, Needs Assessment and Data Collection Work Group, National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, 2007-2011

Law Enforcement Subcommittee Chair, Salt Lake City Police Department COPS Methamphetamine Initiative, 2006-2010

**Awards**:

**National Awards:**

2022 National Association of Former United States Attorneys (NAFUSA) Exceptional Service Award

2021 National Gang Crime Research Center’s Frederic Milton Thrasher Award (for “Superior Accomplishments in Gang Prosecution”)

2020 Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Administrator’s Award

2020 National Gang Crime Research Center’s Frederic Milton Thrasher Award (for “Superior Accomplishments in Gang Prosecution”)

2019 Executive Office of the United States Attorney (EOUSA) Director’s Award for Superior Performance by a Criminal Assistant United States Attorney

**Utah Awards:**

2023 Salt Lake County Unified Police Department Sheriff’s Star (Operation Summer Jammed Prosecution)

1. FBI Commendation for Outstanding Prosecution Skills

2022 U.S. Attorney’s Award for Outstanding Community Outreach (Criminal Division)

2022 Project Director’s Award, Salt Lake Area Metro Gang Unit

2022 Utah Narcotics Officers’ Association Commendation Award

2022 Salt Lake County Unified Police Department Sheriff’s Star (Operation Lunch Money Prosecution)

2021 Utah Narcotics Officers’ Association Special Agency Operations Award (Operation Lunch Money Prosecution)

2021 Utah Narcotics Officers’ Association Special Agency Operations Award (Operation Leaving Beaver Prosecution)

2021 Salt Lake County Unified Police Department Sheriff’s Star (Operation Leaving Beaver Prosecution)

2020 U.S. Attorney’s Award for Exceptional Performance (Criminal Division)

2020 U.S. Attorney’s Award for Exceptional Performance (OCDETF Team)

2020 Project Director’s Award, Salt Lake Area Metro Gang Unit

2019 Salt Lake County Unified Police Department Sheriff’s Star (Operation Northern Exposure Prosecution)

2019 Commendation Award from Utah County Major Crimes Task Force

2019 Commendation Award from Utah Narcotics Officers’ Association (Operation Northern Exposure Prosecution)

2019 Salt Lake County Unified Police Department Sheriff’s Star (Operation Parental Advisory Prosecution)

2019 Project Director’s Award, Salt Lake Area Metro Gang Unit

2018 Utah Gang Investigators Association Unit Citation Award

2018 OCDETF West Central Region District Award (Operation Black Mass and Operation Intravenus de Milo Prosecutions)

2018 Salt Lake County Unified Police Department Sheriff’s Star (Operation Salty Gangsters Prosecution)

2017 United States Attorney’s Office Award, Commendation for Narcotics Section

2017 Project Director’s Award, Salt Lake Area Metro Gang Unit

2014 Special Recognition for Demonstrated Excellence, United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation

2013 United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Utah Award for Superior Litigative Performance as a Team

2012 Trial Attorney of the Year, Salt Lake County District Attorney’s Office

2008 Gang Prosecutor of the Year, Utah Gang Investigator’s Association

2007 Outstanding Achievement Award, 18th Annual Utah Gang Conference

1999 Communicator of the Year, Westminster College