

Christopher Ryan Parker

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director

2011—2020; 2021-Present

Utah Division of Public Utilities, Salt Lake City, Utah

Provide strategic, policy, and litigation guidance to professional staff to ensure Utah citizens receive safe, reliable utility service at reasonable rates

Manage a staff of more than 30, including PhD and Masters level economists, engineers, and accountants

Negotiate with other governmental entities, utility companies, and industry groups concerning rate increases and technical issues, include a landmark distribute solar settlement

Negotiate and participate in regional and national energy forums

Advocate for legislation of concern to the Division before the Utah Legislature

Co-chair and State Representative, NorthernGrid Enrolled Parties & States Committee

State Representative, Western Resource Adequacy Program, Committee of State Representatives

Representative, Western Electricity Coordinating Council, Joint Guidance Committee

Chair, Utah Grid Resilience Committee

Commissioner, Utah Broadband Center Advisory Commission

Executive Director

2020-2021

Utah Department of Commerce, Salt Lake City, Utah

Administer a department of nearly 300 employees, implementing a strategic vision to optimize commerce in the state by simplifying citizen interactions with government while judiciously enforcing the law

Oversee licensing, registration, and enforcement efforts for hundreds of professions and industries

Manage departmental legislative and other outreach, including key partners

Administer a nearly \$45M annual budget

Advocate for and provide advice about pending legislation

Oversaw successful rapid shift to department-wide teleworking, while maintaining or improving productivity

Shifted focus of public education efforts to a proactive and digital footing

Maintained energy-sector expertise, including testifying and commenting in Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission proceedings concerning carbon regulation in FERC markets

Associate General Counsel

2004-2011

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, Utah Legislature, Salt Lake City, Utah

Provide legal and policy research and advice to legislators and legislative committees, including:

-Government Operations Interim Committee

-Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee

-Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee

-Utah International Trade Commission

-Immigration Interim Committee

-Judicial Retention Election Task Force

-Water Issues Task Force

Represent the Legislature and legislators in judicial proceedings and advise in other institutional matters

Draft legislation in specified subject areas, including water, natural resources, environmental quality, public utilities, election law, and other areas

Helped create Utah's Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission

Organize and staff the Legislature's international efforts with China's Liaoning Province, including hosting visiting delegations from Liaoning and traveling to Liaoning with a legislative delegation

Law Clerk

2002-2004

Justice Michael J. Wilkins, Utah Supreme Court, Salt Lake City, Utah

Evaluate cases before oral arguments, including conducting research and making recommendations to Justice Wilkins

Draft opinions of the court

Edit, substantively and technically, opinions of the court before issuance

Law Clerk

2001-2002

Utah County Attorney's Office, Provo, Utah

Conduct research and draft memoranda

Matters worked on included felony cases, including a capital homicide case, juvenile cases, planning and zoning, tax matters, and other general county work

Extern

Summer 2000

Judge Norman H. Jackson, Utah Court of Appeals, Salt Lake City, Utah

Evaluate cases before court consideration, including conducting research and making recommendations to Judge Jackson

Draft opinions and decisions of the court

Paralegal

1997-1999

Utah Legal Services, Ogden, Utah

Research and collect evidence in public benefits cases before state agencies and the Social Security Administration

Represent clients in administrative hearings before state agencies and the Social Security Administration

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Juris Doctor cum laude

2002

J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University Provo, Utah

Recipient of the John S. Welch Award for Outstanding Legal Writing

Author of "A Constitutional Examination of the Federal Exemptions for Native American Religious Peyote Use"

16 BYU Journal of Public Law 89, 2001

Executive Editor and Staff Editor, BYU Journal of Public Law

Bachelor of Science cum laude

1999

Weber State University Ogden, Utah

Recipient, Outstanding Academic Achievement Award, Political Science Department, Weber State University