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Basic Rights Americans Often Take for Granted

BY JORDAN JOLLEY



Scott Young

As Law Day quickly approaches, Scott Young feels it is important to reflect on some of the most basic rights that we, as Americans, often take for granted. Young, a Salt Lake City lawyer who specializes in civil rights and government defense, commercial litigation, and insurance defense says "It's all too common for us to have blind faith that if a problem arises in any of our lives, that there is a process for a fair resolution [the judicial system]."

Young says "Things haven't always been this way throughout history." In fact, Young says that it is because of Magna Carta, which laid the foundation for our judicial system today, that we are able to have resolutions to our problems. When the Magna Carta was written, the king did whatever he

wanted, whenever he wanted. People weren't able to wake up every day with the same assurances we have. "The Magna Carta was the biggest step in getting us where we are today" according to Young.

Young, a Columbia University School of Law graduate, knows and understands Magna Carta and its influences nearly eight centuries after its creation. And with his detailed understanding, he believes in maintaining and improving our current laws. According to Young "Our society is an ever-changing one. Our legal system must adapt in order to keep up with the many changes." He adds, "Of course, no process is perfect, but the courts, state legislature, etc. are good at keeping up with these changes."

As an example, Young mentions the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure. The courts recognized that civil cases were bogged down in discovery and too many cases were not being heard. So, they adapted to make sure discovery was possible no matter the size or matter of the case. "This," Young says, "is a great example of changing to better serve the community."

And speaking of serving the community, Young mentions that helping and serving the members of his community are what he loves most about his career. Young says that in the ten years he has been practicing, he's seen how critical a resolution can be

for any given individual who faces a problem. Young attributes his motivation for his career to the relief and joy his clients feel and express to him upon finding resolutions in the various cases he represents. "I thoroughly enjoy being intellectually engaged. Legal issues are tough and the challenge of seeing different sides of an issue and coming up with a resolution between two parties is very rewarding," states Young.

As Young reflects on the influence of Magna Carta, he looks forward to the future and what he'd like to see realized in our community. Young optimistically says that he has a personal goal

to practice law with the highest degree of honor and honesty. "We need to be continually educating ourselves with what is going on in our society at large." He goes on to say "Everything is changing so quickly and lawyers need to be at the front of change to understand the impact it has on our rights and the judicial system."

Lastly, Young believes that lawyers can't sit in the office and do work, they need to interact with the community to understand the challenges that confront everyone. The real solutions require solutions for everyone and not just one person. It's something which is easily overlooked but very important.

Jury

Defendant

Would this seem fair to you?

Since our nation's founding, the right to trial by a jury of one's peers has been a fundamental principle of our democracy. But fulfilling this principle and ensuring equal justice under the law depends on each of us doing our part. So be a peer and report for jury service. The Utah State Courts thanks you!

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