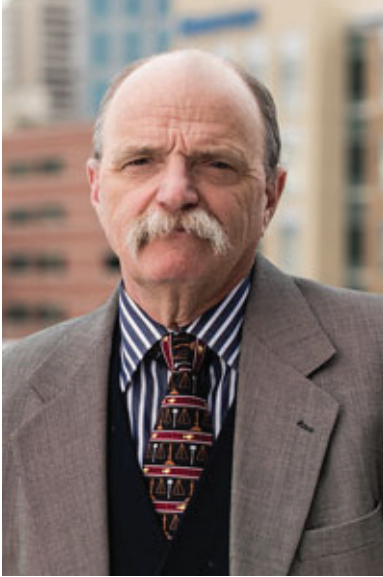


# RONALD J. YENGICH



## *Lawyer of the Year*

Ronald J. Yengich was born and raised in Highland Boy, Utah, at the base of the Bingham Copper Mine. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in History at Bellarmine College, Louisville, Kentucky in 1972, he attended and graduated from the University of Utah College of Law with a degree of Juris Doctor in 1975. He began his legal career on September 29, 1975, as a criminal defense attorney at the Salt Lake Legal Defender Association, before moving out on his own, becoming partners over the years with Earl Xaiz, Bradley P. Rich, Fred Metos, and John O'Connell. He is currently a managing partner with Earl Xaiz, at the law firm of Yengich & Xaiz, where his practice focuses solely on criminal defense.

Mr. Yengich is a member of the Utah State Bar, the United States Bar: 9th, 10th, and 11th Circuit Bar, the Montana Bar Association, and the United States Supreme Court Bar. He is also a member of the American Board of Criminal Lawyers, the National Association of Criminal Lawyers, the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, the Society for the Reform of Criminal Law, the Italian–American Lawyers of California, the Italian–American Lawyers Association of Utah, the Croatian American Bar Association, and the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law.

Mr. Yengich has received several awards, including Best Columnist, *Private Eye Newspaper* Poll, 1992–93; 1993–94; 1996, Gold Special Jury Award, Worldfest Film Festival, Houston, TX, 1999, Utah Business Best Criminal Defense Lawyer, 2003, and has been listed repeatedly as one of the Best Lawyers in Utah, Utah Legal Elite, Mountain States Super Lawyers and the Best Lawyers in America.

Mr. Yengich has been an active member of the legal community by serving on several boards and panels, namely acting as President for the Utah Criminal Lawyers Association, Utah Bar Association for two terms, Board Member for the Utah Criminal Lawyers Association from 1990–1997, and Co-Chair of the Fall Forum for the Utah State Bar in 2006.

Mr. Yengich has successfully represented several clients that were heavily reported on by the media, including the murder cases of James Bottarini, Sam Kastanis, Mark Hofmann, Michael DeCorso, and Joseph Lovato. He has also represented several individuals pro bono, such as Tim DeChristopher, The Anti-Shah Protestors, The Hercules 4 Case, the Anti-War Protestors, The Nevada Test Site, and most recently, the Capitol 13 Protestors, for the LGBT community.

Mr. Yengich has had several teaching opportunities over the years, including being an adjunct professor at Westminster College, teaching in the Paralegal Program, Criminal Law and Procedure, and Legal Writing, at the Mountainwest Business College in their Paralegal Program, at the University of Utah Political Science Department, Honors Program. Because of his degree in history, he has worked on several projects relating to Joe Hill and the Labor Union. His father, Nick Yengich, was Executive Secretary of the Mine Mill and Smelter Workers, Local 485, and is the inspiration for Mr. Yengich's interest in these matters.

Mr. Yengich is well known for his legal sense, but is also an amazing writer, having been a columnist for *The Private Eye Newspaper* 1985–1997, *The Salt Lake City Observer* 1998–1999, *The Catalyst* 1999–2000, as well as *Utah Holiday Magazine*, *Bench and Bar Journal*, *The Neo-Analyst*, and *The Inkslinger*. He has written several published articles on legal matters such as, *Pre-Sentencing Reports: The Right of Disclosure*, 2 JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY LAW 1975 (co-authored with the Honorable Christine Decker), *Confessions and the Right to Counsel: Brewer v. Williams*, CRIMINAL DEFENSE MAGAZINE, 1978 and, *The Role of Defense Lawyer*, UTAH BEAT (Utah Fraternal Order of Police, Vol. 2, No. 1, 1989).

Mr. Yengich is a firm believer in supporting the community. He is on the Board of Directors for the Good Samaritan Program at the Cathedral of the Madeleine, he gives money to those he sees who are down on their luck, and each year he is the organizer and event planner for the Nick E. Yengich/Grandma Gump Annual 5K Fun Run, held the first Saturday of December, in memory of his brother, Nick E. Yengich, his father, Nick A. Yengich, and Grandma Gump, who is the Honorable Geraldine Enniss. The proceeds from this Run are donated to different charities every year; the Fun Run is on its 32nd year, and still going strong.

Mr. Yengich is married to his wife, Kay Yengich for 24 years, and he celebrates along with his wife, the successes of his 3 stepchildren and their spouses, and 5 beautiful grandchildren. Ron and Kay are lovers of animals, and currently have two very active dogs, Ginger and Annie, that keep them very busy. They have been known to have animals all their lives and are devoted to keeping all animals safe and happy.

*2015 Summer Convention Awards*