

Susanne Gustin

ATTORNEY AT LAW

WELLS FARGO CENTER
299 SOUTH MAIN STREET, 13TH FLOOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84111
PHONE (801) 535-4343
FAX (801) 536-3300

August 12, 2015

Steve Rease
Secretary
California Attorneys for Criminal Justice
1555 River Park Drive, #105
Sacramento, CA 95815

*Re: Ronald J. Yengich
Utah State Bar "Lawyer of the Year" Award*

Dear Mr. Rease:

As a Utah State Bar Commissioner, I am pleased to announce that Ronald J. Yengich, a proud member of the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, has received the "Lawyer of the Year" award from the Utah State Bar. The award is the most prestigious award given to an attorney by the Utah State Bar. Despite its understated name, the award is a lifetime achievement award, recognizing only one lawyer per year who has reached the epitome of excellence in the legal profession over his or her career. It is also the first time in the history of the Utah State bar that an attorney who practices exclusively in the area of criminal defense has received the award.

For forty years, Mr. Yengich has practiced criminal defense in Utah. He has represented some of the most high-profile clients in Utah as well as the nation. His commitment to his clients, many of whom he has represented pro bono, his involvement in the community and his charitable contributions to various organizations were also deciding factors in the Utah State Bar Commission's decision to award Mr. Yengich with its highest honor.

As a criminal defense attorney myself, who has witnessed Mr. Yengich in trial on many occasions, I can confidently attest that he is the best criminal defense attorney in the State of Utah. He also is also one of the very best criminal defense attorneys in the nation. I have watched many high-profile criminal trials on television and am always left with the firm conviction that the defense attorney "isn't as good as Yengich!"

Ron Yengich has had some astonishing victories over the course of his career. He handled the high-profile capital murder case of *State v. Sam Kastanis*. Mr. Kastanis was charged with murdering his wife and three children. Instead of running an expected *insanity* defense, Mr. Yengich pointed the finger at Margaret Kastanis, wife of Sam Kastanis. Yengich secured four “not guilty” verdicts at the end of the trial. The verdict in another capital murder case he handled, *State v. Lovato*, was also “not guilty.” In other capital cases, Mr. Yengich consistently saves the lives of his clients, including convicted murderer Michael DeCorso and Mark Hofmann, who killed two persons in bombings to cover up his involvement in forging Mormon documents. James Bottarini, another Yengich client, accused of murdering his wife by pushing his wife off a cliff at Zion’s National Park, was acquitted at trial.

Please join the Utah State Bar in celebrating California Attorneys for Criminal Justice member Ronald J. Yengich’s significant achievements in the law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susanne Gustin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Susanne Gustin
Utah State Bar Commissioner

Enclosure
