BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT OF JIM BERCHTOLD

Jim Berchtold is the Directing Attorney in Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada’s Consumer Rights Project.

Jim graduated magna cum laude from the University of Utah in 1992 and from the University of Utah College of Law in 1996, where he was a William H. Leary Scholar and served on the Board of Editors of the Utah Law Review. While in law school, Jim organized and edited the Utah Law Review symposium entitled "What Is a Family?," published at 1996 Utah L. Rev. 367-569, and worked for the Utah Legal Clinic, where he briefed and argued before the Utah Court of Appeals in a civil rights case challenging Utah's issuance of allegedly racist license plates, reported at 905 P.2d 317 (Utah Ct. App. 1995).

Prior to joining Legal Aid Center, Jim was a partner with a large, regional law firm with offices throughout the Southwest. Jim’s practice focused primarily in commercial and corporate litigation, litigating disputes in both state and federal court and arguing cases before the Nevada Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Jim joined Legal Aid Center in 2009 to open and manage the Civil Law Self-Help Center, Legal Aid Center’s innovative, free, court-based resource center that acts as a legal emergency room, providing legal information, forms, and guidance to thousands of self-represented litigants every year both in person and on-line.

In March 2017, Jim took charge of Legal Aid Center’s Guardianship Advocacy Program, which provides legal representation to the elderly and adults with disabilities who are facing or under guardianship. Jim also served on the Nevada Supreme Court’s Standing Guardianship Commission.

And finally, in May 2019, Jim became the Directing Attorney of Legal Aid Center’s Consumer Rights Project, where he leads a dedicated group of attorneys who, among other things, fight against fraudulent sales practices, abusive debt collection activities, and other consumer scams; help people who have been denied social security benefits; represent workers and homeowners in bankruptcy court and through the foreclosure process; and protect seniors and adults with disabilities from unnecessary guardianship and financial exploitation.