

KSLS Annual Meeting and Conference

Presenter- John Stahl, P.S., CFedS

John B. Stahl, PLS, CFedS, is a registered professional land surveyor in Utah and Montana, currently owning and operating Cornerstone Professional Land Surveys, Inc., and Cornerstone Land Consulting, Inc., in Salt Lake City. Mr. Stahl specializes in surveying land boundaries, resolving boundary conflicts, performing title and historical research, land boundary consultation services, mediation, and dispute resolution. He has been qualified as an expert witness in numerous boundary, access, and negligence cases and has actively participated in preparing amicus curiae briefs for the Utah Supreme Court. He has furthered his education by participating in a state-qualified mediation training program and earning recognition as a Certified Federal Surveyor. Mr. Stahl has served his profession as state chairman of the Utah Council of Land Surveyors and a Utah delegate to the Western Federation of Professional Surveyors. He is an adjunct instructor for Salt Lake Community College and Utah Valley University, where he has taught mathematics, ethics and liability, and boundary law courses for land surveying students since 1991. He also is a licensed Real Estate Instructor in Utah. Mr. Stahl received his AAS degree in land surveying from Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell, Montana, and has authored numerous articles and publications covering topics on boundary laws, research, and resolving conflicts of evidence.

Thursday, October 5, 2023 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Understanding the Risks Associated with Surveys, Descriptions, and Plats (4 hours) This presentation will encompass an overview of various types of surveying services designed to fulfill the client's intended purpose. We will discuss various elements for consideration when determining the scope of services to be provided. Recognition and disclosure of easements and encumbrances in real property will be considered along with the impact of regulatory interests imposed by local, state, and federal agencies. The participants will review and discuss the potential benefits and risks associated with various seemingly routine projects gone awry. The range of projects will include the preparations of legal descriptions, routine boundary and construction surveys, topographic surveys, and plats. We will discuss a series of cases with a view of "what went wrong" and "how could it have been prevented."

Friday, October 5, 2023 8:00 – 12:00 p.m. & 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Unlocking Boundary Disputes – Who Holds the Keys? (6 hours) This course will provide a thorough examination of the key concepts of Real Property Law including Title Law, Conveyancing Law, and Boundary Law, with an in-depth discussion of the methods for creation and establishment of boundaries. Current and past court decisions defining the surveyor's role in determining land boundaries will be reviewed. Methods for determining solutions to multiple monumentation and the analysis of boundary evidence will be discussed. We will learn how to resolve difficult boundary conflicts by using alternative dispute resolution processes that benefit the land surveyor and the landowner and will also examine the surveyor's role in the litigation process. Participants will discuss various methods to prepare for depositions and courtroom testimony. The surveyor's role in documenting the final resolution of boundary problems will be presented and discussed.

Friday, October 6th ; 3:30- 5:30 p.m.

The Future of the Professional Land Surveying Practice (2 hours)

We will begin with a review of the past roles of the land surveyor in society. We will examine the expectations of the client and will consider the duties and responsibilities which arise from our professional status. Potential risks associated with the land surveyor's work product will also be discussed. Current trends within the professional societies and standards of practice will be examined and discussed. We will discuss tips and techniques to assist the surveyor in contracting for the resolution of unforeseen problems. We will also review some real-life examples of projects and court cases involving the land surveyor's services in the resolution process. We will learn how alternative dispute resolution processes can benefit the land surveyor and the landowner and will also examine the surveyor's role in the litigation process.