

SCHOOL AND INSTITUTIONAL TRUST BENEFICIARIES'

Advocacy Office

MISSION

The Advocacy Office advances the rights and interests of Utah's 12 land trust beneficiaries through accountability, relationship building, information sharing, and advocacy.

VISION

To ensure the integrity and impact of Utah's School and Institutional Trust System for current and future beneficiaries.

ROLE AND PURPOSE

The Advocacy Office is the authorized agent to represent Utah's School & Institutional Trust beneficiaries established in the Utah Enabling Act. The office monitors the trust activities, facilitates communication, and provides guidance to safeguard trust integrity and ensure lasting impact for beneficiaries.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Advocacy Office focuses on key activities that support beneficiaries and advance their rights and interests:

-  Beneficiary Representation: Facilitate engagement with trust beneficiaries.
-  Trust Protection: Preserve trust principles and promote optimal revenue generation.
-  System Accountability: Monitor trust system compliance with the Utah Constitution and statute.
-  Political Advocacy: Promote understanding of the trust system's purpose and value.

BENEFICIARIES' RIGHTS AND INTERESTS

Trust beneficiaries have rights and interests under Utah Law to protect them now and in the future. The proper and lawful management of trust lands, funds, and distributions is their primary interest, and their specific rights include:

- Right to information
- Right to impartial treatment
- Right to timely notice
- Right to challenge certain actions
- Right to distribution of funds
- Right to regular accountings
- Other rights recognized in 53C-1-102

ADVOCACY COUNCIL & GOVERNANCE

The Advocacy Council and State Treasurer share governance and oversight of the Advocacy Office. The Advocacy Council's authority and responsibilities include strategic planning, budget oversight, administrative rules and policy development, and guidance on the office operations.

The Advocacy Council consists of seven members appointed by various entities within the trust system to ensure a balance of expertise and representation.

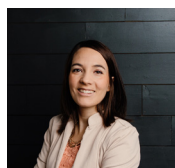
"Utah students benefit from a trust system that delivers strong results and protects both current and future beneficiaries."

Utah Treasurer, Marlo Oaks

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WHERE DOES THE ADVOCACY OFFICE FIT IN THE TRUST SYSTEM?

The Legislature has delegated trust management responsibilities to three state agencies: the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (TLA), with a fiduciary mandate to manage lands; the School and Institutional Trust Funds Office (SITFO), with a fiduciary mandate to invest funds, and the School and Institutional Trust Beneficiaries' Advocacy Office (Advocacy Office) with authority to represent and advocate for the beneficiary interests.

