

## Alan Matheson

Born in Logan, UT, I moved to Tempe, AZ when I was five. My dear parents gave me all that matters, including a loving home, remarkable examples, sound guidance, a sense of purpose, and faith. My parents were educators--Dad was a professor and Dean of the ASU Law School; Mom an elementary school teacher--and instilled in me an appreciation for learning. I loved sports and played football, basketball and track in high school.

My mission in Alberta, Canada (Spanish-speaking) was life-changing. The first thing I learned was that there were few Spanish-speakers in Alberta. The second was that the Lord is involved in the details of our lives and gives us experiences that prepare us to become whom He wants us to be. I graduated from Stanford University and worked in Washington, DC on a national policy report. An answered prayer sent me to UCLA for law school. There, I served in a bishopric and, more importantly, met Laura Coleman, and we were married in the Mesa Temple. We have been blessed with three remarkable children: Colton, Sarah and Carter.

Following law school, I embarked on what has been a diverse and unexpected career. In Arizona, I clerked for a federal judge, was senior attorney and environmental policy adviser for an electric utility, and became a shareholder in a law firm where I practiced water law. We then made one of the most consequential decisions of our lives. Although well-established in Arizona, we followed a prompting (and saved ourselves from a life of financial security) and moved to Utah in 2001 to start an office of Trout Unlimited, a nonprofit sportsmen organization. From there, I became executive director of Envision Utah, senior policy adviser to Governor Herbert, and now serve as the executive director of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. In retrospect, we see clearly the hand of the Lord in a move that made little sense at the time, but has enriched our lives.

When I can find some free moments, I enjoy canyoneering, fly fishing, backpacking, cycling (road and mountain), playing guitar, and being with family and friends.

Serving as bishop of the 6th Ward was the highlight of my Church service. Nevertheless, I humbly welcome this call to the stake presidency and the opportunity it provides to work closely with Presidents Staples and Smith and to associate with the remarkable saints in the Willow Creek Stake.