Ramzi Hamady knows what it's like to feel like he doesn’t belong. He also knows what it’s like to feel pulled between places, people, and ideas. But recently, Ramzi has felt like he has found a surprising fit in the legal community here in Salt Lake City.

Ramzi spent the first decade of his life living between California and Lebanon. Even now, his mom lives in Beirut. He is bilingual and bicultural. After finishing undergraduate school at the University of California Irvine, he interned for a congresswoman in Washington D.C. but decided not to stay on the east coast. He felt pulled back to the West. After going back to California to work, he started applying to law school. He got accepted into a number of highly ranked law schools, but couldn’t afford to go to them. So he found himself in Utah by default. He wasn’t particularly tied to the University of Utah and felt at times that he was on a tough strange island without many allies.

I say Ramzi found a “surprising fit” in the law here, because until recently, Ramzi wasn’t sure a legal career in Utah was going to be a long-term option for him. Ramzi is a 2017 graduate of SJ Quinney College of Law. Despite doing well in law school, he wouldn’t necessarily call law school a good experience for him. Ramzi’s community in California was a lot more ethnically diverse. As one of only a few Lebanese people in the legal community here, he felt pretty isolated—especially at first. But he found support in key people at the law school and pushed through.

Then, after graduating from law school, he struggled to find a good fit in Utah. He first worked at a small family law boutique firm where he felt like he got excellent training, but after a year or so the firm dissolved. He then went to another small law group where he learned immigration law and managed their family law practice. While this was a great learning experience, he found that he didn’t like managing his own practice without the support of colleagues and a firm. He then spent over two years at the Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys (“UJDA”) where he learned to be a litigator and trial attorney from his incredible mentors. As his time there was coming to an end, he thought about heading back to California and even filled out the application for the California bar. But ultimately, friends and colleagues he had made through his many legal involvements helped him navigate his way to Ray Quinney & Nebeker (“RQN”), where he now works.

At RQN Ramzi does primarily family law and criminal defense work. He really likes the work but when asked what he likes the most about his firm he says it’s the people. “I work with really good people. The firm doesn’t feel like a hierarchy. People value my contribution here.” He describes RQN as being full of “humble law nerds” and that makes him fit right in. He’s on the recruiting committee there as well and he feels like RQN really values him on that committee, really values having a diverse workforce, and is devoted to hiring top talent. He also really appreciates the opportunity to use his writing skills often, to learn from his remarkably talented mentors and colleagues, and to work in a firm that is
Ramzi Hamidi

committed to high quality work.

Ramzi is a creative person. He loves music and creative writing. He is teaching himself to play the guitar and dabbles in piano as well. He met his wife Melissa while in college at the University of California at Irvine. They met at the Royal Cup Café in Long Beach, CA where Ramzi used to perform music and poetry at their open mic nights. He must have made an impression on Melissa because they’ve now been together almost twelve years and they have a 2 ½ year old daughter, Najwa.

Some people might not think that creativity and law go well together. And Ramzi admits that it can be tough to be in an adversarial mindset all the time, especially as a creative-type. But what he’s found is that he can use his creativity and his unique perspective to help solve others’ legal problems. This creativity comes in handy when doing legal work, because he’s often able to think about a creative solution where more straightforward thinking might not have gotten his clients to a workable and advantageous solution.

Ramzi used to play soccer in college and is still known to do a pick-up game of soccer or basketball, but nowadays he’s more content watching sports than playing them. He’s clearly deeply committed to equity, inclusion, and diversity, and takes great pride in his work. Ramzi is active in the Utah Minority Bar Association and is a Past President.

Whether you meet him in court, at an open mic, or through a game of pick-up basketball, say hello to Ramzi. You’ll find yourself immersed in an amazing conversation with a deep creative thinker. Give yourself a little extra time to get to know him. It’ll be worth it for sure.

“Ramzi is a fierce advocate. In all that he does, he is compassionate, driven, and dedicated. Not only is he an immense asset to our legal community, he’s an asset to the community as a whole. His genuine kindness leaves a positive impression on everyone he meets. I’m honored to have worked with him and privileged to have had the opportunity to get to know him.” — Judge Monica Diaz