



ASU Law welcomes the highest-credentialed, most diverse class in its history

For the fifth year in a row, the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University welcomes a record-breaking class of students. The Juris Doctor (JD) class of 2025 comprises close to 290 students from more than 35 states and 11 countries. It is the highest credentialed to date, with a median LSAT score of 167 and a median GPA of 3.85.

ASU Law remains steadfast in its commitment to diversifying the legal field, and this year's JD class represents a record number of diverse scholars. Students of color comprise more than 35% of the class, while 20% are first-generation college students and 19% identify as LGBTQ.

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What if nature had legal rights?

Imagine if the Amazon River had legal representation. Or if the Colorado River had a bill of rights. Or if an ecosystem was granted personhood.

These are examples of the Rights of Nature movement, a concept that has been deeply rooted in Indigenous knowledge for millennia and is now gaining traction globally.

The idea: Nature and ecosystems should no longer be regarded as property that can be owned but as entities that have a legal and inalienable right to exist,

flourish and defend themselves in courts of law as "rights-bearing entities."

[Read more](#)



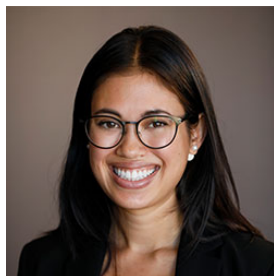
Running out of river, running out of time

Let's be clear about this: It's not just about water. Every time you lift a glass of water to your lips, enjoy a hot shower or fill up your swimming pool, there's a certain amount of fraught history coming out of the faucet.

From personal health and food production to recreation, business, politics and even culture, water touches almost every aspect of life in Arizona. It is essential. Despite this fact, over the past century, not much has changed in terms of how we get it, how we use it and our attitudes toward its encroaching scarcity. But those in the know understand we're getting to a tipping point that will force us to adjust our attitudes and change our consumption habits. And change we must.

[Read more](#)

Student Highlights



Winner for the James B. Boskey Law Student Essay Contest on Dispute Resolution

The Lodestar Dispute Resolution Center is excited to announce that Liza Lawson Risoldi had the winning paper, "Power in Mediation," for the James B. Boskey Law Student Essay Contest on Dispute Resolution.

Liza is currently a law clerk for the Honorable David B. Gass at the Arizona Court of Appeals. In May 2022, she graduated from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, where she participated in the Lodestar Mediation Clinic. Before law school, Liza worked in public education for 12 years, and she hopes to continue public service work after her clerkship.

The competition is named in memory of James B. Boskey, an intellectual, humanitarian, Seton Hall University law professor and mediator. The purpose of the competition is to create greater interest in the field of dispute resolution among J.D. students nationwide.

Faculty in the News



Parsonage Allowances Are Terrible. But That Doesn't Make Raphael Warnock a Tax Dodger

Adam Chodorow

Professor Adam Chodorow wrote an opinion piece in Slate, discussing use and history of the parsonage allowance in the latest political attack against Sen. Raphael Warnock.

[Read more](#)



What the ruling to codify same-sex marriage means

Stefanie Lindquist

Arizona Horizon spoke with Stefanie Lindquist from the ASU School of Global Politics and Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law to find out what this could mean for the future.

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Drone delivery companies are coming for your airspace

Troy Rule

One of the largest government-assisted property grabs in U.S. history is quietly unfolding above America's cities and towns. Walmart and other giant corporations eager to launch drone delivery services are using FAA authorizations to snatch up private airspace rights and paying us nothing in return.

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 - Featuring: Robert Miller, Prism
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 - Featuring: James Hodge, WUSA 9
- [Starbucks excludes unionized stores from pay hikes and benefits](#)
 - Featuring: Michael Selmi, Yahoo!
- [Acclaimed Indigenous health researcher Donald Warne joins School of Public Health](#)
 - Featuring: Donald Warne, The HUB @ Johns Hopkins
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- [Snared: How a South Phoenix Kid Got 16 Years in the Slammer for One Ounce of Weed](#)
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 - Featuring: Rhett Larson, AZ Central
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 - Featuring: Ann Cavoukias, IT World Canada
- [How a National Emergency Can Bring the Monkeypox Outbreak Under Control](#)
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- Featuring: Valena Beety, YouTube
- [Native Voices, Native Votes](#)
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 - Featuring: Rhett Larson, Greeley Tribune
- [Inaugural class of Arizona Junior Fellows reflects on their experience, road ahead](#)
 - Featuring: Stephen Matter, Chamber Business News

September 2022

- [Why more Arizona workers are turning to Unions](#)
 - Featuring: Michael Selmi, 91.5 KJZZ
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 - Featuring: Troy Rule, AZCentral
- [Flaws of Eyewitness ID Magnified by Facial Recognition Software: Researcher](#)
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 - Featuring: Adam Chodorow, Slate
- [Doesn't make sense': Legal expert questions ruling that revived Arizona's 158-year-old abortion ban.](#)
 - Featuring: Paul Bender, 12 News
- [Techipalooza helps startups get in shape to prepare for launch](#)
 - Featuring: Michael Hull, Business News

Alumni News



Lynn Allen in the Fight Against Nuclear Verdicts®

Lynn Allen '89, joined the faculty at the inaugural [Nuclear Verdicts Defense Institute](#) in June 2022. Lynn guided experienced defense attorneys on their path to becoming certified Nuclear Verdicts Defenders in a three-day immersive education experience; the only trial academy focused on training defense counsel on how to implement the strategies to stop Nuclear Verdicts®.

Heo accepted into the American Bar Association's Bar Leadership Institute Class of 2023

Christopher Heo, '17, was recently accepted into the 2022-2023 class for the State Bar of Arizona Bar Leadership Institute. Chris is senior counsel at Wood, Smith Henning & Berman,



LLP's Phoenix office. His varied practice includes professional liability (both legal and medical malpractice), employment, transportation, product liability, and catastrophic injury. Chris was President of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association while at ASU Law and also served as Treasurer for the Student Bar Association. Upon graduation, Chris was awarded the Alan A. Matheson Service Award for outstanding service to ASU Law. Chris currently serves as Treasurer for the Arizona Asian American Bar Association.

PHOENIX MAGAZINE TOP LAWYER 2022

150 ASU Law Alumni featured on Phoenix Magazines Top Lawyers list

Phoenix Magazine released its first annual "Top Lawyers" list in the September/October issue. The list, nominated and voted on by their peers, features 150 ASU Law alumni. The magazine also features Q7A stories with alumni [Thomas A. Grisoni](#), [Christina Noyes](#) and [Adam M. Trenk](#).

[Explore the full database](#) online or on newsstands now.

Events

Conference on Elections & Federalism

Phoenix | Oct. 7 & 8



Conference on Elections and Federalism

October 7-8

In partnership with the University of Wisconsin's State Democracy Research Initiative, the Center for Constitutional Design will host an interdisciplinary conference on electoral federalism. Participants in the event will discuss how federalism affects electoral institutions in the United States, how U.S. electoral institutions may be evaluated under international standards of electoral efficacy, and how varying institutional structures and conflicts within the states shape electoral administration and procedures. Join us in-person or online.

[Learn more](#)



The 11th Annual ASU-Arkfeld eDiscovery, Law and Technology Conference

October 11-12

Join us for the 11th Annual ASU-Arkfeld eDiscovery, Law and Technology Conference at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law on Tuesday, October 11 and Wednesday, October 12, 2022. This highly engaging conference focuses on the practical and emerging issues affecting the practice of law in the digital age.

[Learn more](#)



Reception and Fundraiser

Make a Difference | November 18, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

2022 Gold 'N Gavel Reception and Fundraiser

November 18

ASU Law is excited to announce that our 2022 Gold 'n Gavel Reception and Fundraiser will be held on Friday, November 18, 2022 at 6 p.m. at the Beus Center for Law and Society. Please save the date for this wonderful opportunity to celebrate ASU Law's many achievements, all while raising money for our students and programs.

Consider contributing today!

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