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.

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.”

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.

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.

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.

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.

August 2022

- Bipartisan Bill Would Clear Federal Marijuana Misdemeanor Records
  - Featurin: Eric Luna, High Times
- Native tribe in Utah calls for a boycott of US Bank
  - Featurin: Robert Miller, Prism
- VERIFY: What does a federal public health emergency declaration do?
  - Featurin: James Hodge, WUSA 9
- Starbucks excludes unionized stores from pay hikes and benefits
  - Featurin: Michael Selmi, Yahoo!
- Acclaimed Indigenous health researcher Donald Warne joins School of Public Health
  - Featurin: Donald Warne, The HUB @ Johns Hopkins
- After Dobbs v. Jackson, the Battle Shifts to Digital Privacy v. Surveillance
  - Featurin: K Royal, Leaps.org
- Snared: How a South Phoenix Kid Got 16 Years in the Slammer for One Ounce of Weed
  - Featurin: Randal McDonald, Phoenix New Times
- Immigrants are not getting Social Security numbers at the U.S. border
  - Featurin: Chad Noreuil, National Jurist
- Your most important law school conversations
  - Featurin: Patty Ferguson-Bohnee, Arizona Republic
- Is it safe to go to restaurants, bars and concerts now? How to assess your COVID-19 risk
  - Featurin: James Hodge, AZ Central
- Arizona tribal water settlements stall in courtrooms, agency offices
  - Featurin: Rhett Larson, AZ Central
- Cyber Security Today, Week in Review for Friday, August 5, 2022
  - Featurin: Ann Cavoukian, IT World Canada
- How a National Emergency Can Bring the Monkeypox Outbreak Under Control
  - Featurin: James Hodge, Bill of Health
- Brittney Griner sentenced in Russian drug case
Featuring: Valena Beety, YouTube
- Native Voices, Native Votes
- Arizona Tribes In The U.S. Face Water Crisis
- Featuring: Rhett Larson, Countercurrents Collective
- Top Republican candidates for Arizona’s statewide offices have questioned 2020 election
- Featuring: Paul Bender, AXIOS
- The Regulation of Assisted Reproduction
- Featuring: Diana M. Bowman, The Regulatory Review
- Jaburg Wilk Expands Family Law Practice
- Featuring: Ian D. Haney, Attorney at Law Magazine
- How Arizona can advance innovation, access in digital learning
- Featuring: Diana Bowman, Business Telegraph
- Phoenix’s Largest Homeless Encampment Has Sparked a Lawsuit. What Now?
- Featuring: Ian Wurman, Phoenix New Times
- How Arizona can advance innovation, access in digital learning
- Featuring: Diana Bowman, AZ Big Media
- ‘We needed a deal yesterday’: Deadline passes without deal to save Colorado River. What now?
- 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
- Solar jobs are coming to Arizona, and environmentalists, economists and engineers can’t wait
  - Featuring: Troy Rule, AZCentral
- Flaws of Eyewitness ID Magnified by Facial Recognition Software: Researcher
- Ruling Against Honorlock May Prompt Changes in Online Monitored Testing At ASU
  - Featuring: Jessica Berch, The State Press
- The Texas courts have spared Melissa Lucio’s life. Now she can prove her innocence.
  - Featuring: Valena Beety, MSN
- Fact Check: Gold And Silver Are NOT The Only ‘Lawful’ US Money; Federal Reserve Notes ARE Taxable
  - Featuring: Erin Scharff, Lead Stories
- Originalism: A Matter of Interpretation
  - Featuring: Ilan Wurman, The National Constitution Center
- Inside ASU’s Contract With Coca-Cola
  - Featuring: Laura Coordes, The State Press
- Canadian bishops working with Vatican on statement rejecting ‘Doctrine of Discovery’
  - Featuring: Robert Miller, National Catholic Reporter
- Judge orders accused Planned Parenthood shooter to be forcibly medicated
- Lake’s claims against Hobbs’ education votes proved false
  - Featuring: Paul Bender, 12 News
- Trump lawsuit: Why his real estate and tax trickery may have gone too far.
  - 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 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 Q&A stories with alumni Thomas A. Grisoni, Christina Noyes and Adam M. Trenk.

Explore the full database online or on newsstands now.

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.
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.

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!
Join the Alumni LinkedIn Group

Are you an alum of ASU Law? If so, we invite you to join our group to network, share career highlights, post news articles and more!

Join here