CONVOCATION

December 13, 2023
“We don’t accomplish anything in this world alone... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something.”

—The Honorable Sandra Day O’Connor
(1930 - 2023)
SANDRA DAY O’CONNOR COLLEGE OF LAW

(Established 1967)

STACY LEEDS, JD, LLM, MBA
Willard H. Pedrick Dean and Regents Professor of Law

ANGELA M. BANKS, JD
Vice Dean and Charles J. Merriam Distinguished Professor of Law

JOEY DORMADY, JD
Assistant Dean, Graduate Programs and New Education Initiatives

PATTY FERGUSON-BOHNEE, JD
Assistant Dean for Inclusive Excellence and Professor of Law

AARON HERNANDEZ, JD
Assistant Dean, Allan “Bud” Selig Sports Law and Business Program

TAMARA HERRERA, JD, MA
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Clinical Professor of Law

ANDREW JAYNES, JD
Assistant Dean for Law Students

KATHLENE ROSIER, JD
Assistant Dean, Community Engagement

ERIN SCHARFF, JD
Associate Dean of Research and Faculty Development and Professor of Law

THOMAS WILLIAMS, JD
Sr. Assistant Dean, Administration and Graduate Programs and
Chief Operating Officer
In 1965, President G. Homer Durham hired Willard H. Pedrick to become Arizona State University’s first law school dean and tasked him with the responsibility of building, literally from the ground up, its very first law school. Located on ASU’s Tempe campus, Armstrong Hall housed the law school until its move to the downtown Phoenix campus in 2016.

Over 50 years ago, 83 students graduated with their Juris Doctor from the ASU College of Law. Today, over 650 students graduate annually from ASU Law, receiving one of our five degrees: Juris Doctor (JD), Master of Laws (LLM), Master of Legal Studies (MLS), Master of Human Resources and Employment Law (MHREL), or Master of Sports Law and Business (MSLB).

The law school has accomplished many significant milestones in its 50+ years. In 2006, the law school was renamed to honor Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States. It is a privilege—and a great responsibility—to be entrusted with Justice O’Connor’s (ret.) name and legacy. Students continue to personify Justice O’Connor’s legacy and lifetime work to advance civics education and civic engagement and discourse, by donating more than 100,000 hours of public service each year.

ASU Law has risen in national and world rankings, continues to attract highly credentialed students and offers more personalized programs than any other law school in the country.

In 2016, ASU Law moved to the Beus Center for Law and Society in the ASU downtown Phoenix campus, further enhancing the law school’s service to the community and providing students access to the best legal opportunities. Students can also study beyond Phoenix at ASU locations in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, as well as participate in global study abroad and externship or internship opportunities.

ASU Law’s world-class faculty and administrators provide students with unparalleled opportunities to gain insights and practical skills needed to address legal challenges locally, nationally, and globally. ASU Law also prides itself on its network of engaged alumni and its relationship to the broader legal
community, which has fully embraced the law school and is dedicated to the success of its graduates.

ASU Law has ranked as a top 35 best law school in the nation for nine consecutive years and is one of the youngest law schools in the top 50 as ranked by U.S. News & World Report. ASU Law also has five programs ranked in the top 30 and consistently ranks high in job placement. The law school is also No. 1 in the state for student outcomes and No. 1 in the state for bar passage, often exceeding the national average.
CONVOCATION PROGRAM

December 13, 2023

Procession of Faculty and Candidates (audience should stand)

Opening Remarks
Stacy Leeds
Willard H. Pedrick Dean and Regents Professor of Law

Convocation Address
Michael Latsko
Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer,
Arizona State University

Michael Latsko graduated the University of Virginia (UVA) and its law school, passed the New York bar exam, and practiced corporate securities law in New York City as an associate with mid-town law firm Rogers & Wells (now Clifford Chance) where he worked principally with investment companies and advisers, asset securitization, and commodity futures trading matters. Afterwards Latsko worked for online legal information company LEXIS NEXIS during a period of unprecedented industry consolidation which exposed him to the importance of organizational culture and human connection. At LEXIS NEXIS he led publishing operations for California, Puerto Rico, and New York as well as several post-merger and acquisitions integrations during a time when print media was rapidly migrating to digital formats.

At the turn of century, Michael joined a software development start-up company which created educational content for middle and high school math and science. After successfully negotiating that company’s sale to a publicly-traded company and enjoying a brief mid-life retirement, he held a series of jobs at various software development software companies culminating in being named chief talent officer at what is now S&P Global Market Intelligence which had offices across the U.S. as well as in India, Pakistan, and England.

Before joining ASU as vice president and chief human resources officer in January 2023, Michael spent a decade at UVA working in various human resources leadership positions ranging from talent performance and engagement, learning and development, employee relations, recruiting, policy, risk management, compliance, HR technology, workforce planning and analytics, and customer service and business operations. As a champion for diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, he served on a presidentially-appointed University-community working group that increased employment of socio-economically disadvantaged community members and laid the
foundation for more visible and robust career advancement for all employees.

Michael is immediate past president of HR Virginia, the state-wide affiliate of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and a past officer of the Virginia chapter of the College and Professional Association for Human Resources. He holds certifications from SHRM and the Human Resources Certification Institute and is also a member of the Washington, D.C. bar. For forty years he was a church organist and choir director, and for thirty years he produced and hosted a weekly radio program in Charlottesville, VA.

**Presentation of Candidates**

Andrea Bevier  
*Director of Digital Initiatives and Instructional Design*

**Hooding of Candidates**

Erik Menkhus  
*Clinical Professor of Law; Director, Entrepreneurship and Small Business Clinic*

**Closing Remarks**

Stacy Leeds  
*Willard H. Pedrick Dean and Regents Professor of Law*

**Recession of Faculty and Candidates (audience should stand)**
FALL GRADUATES
December 2023

CANDIDATES FOR JURIS DOCTOR (JD)
Bander Musaed M Alkahtani
Reed Anderson
Chance Berndt
Keaton Choi
Esarjohnly Divinagracia
Carlton Fearon
Nika Gardner
Summer Ghaith
Leah Hansen
Ahmad Reza Hatefi Mofrad
Hannah Hulbert
Benjamin Kochenburger
Kateryna Kostiuchenko
Taylor Lindley
Timothy Miller
Sophia Petrillo
Zachery Rufa
Michael Sabbah
Benjamin Timm
Joseph Vennard
Kailea Weitz

CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF LAWS (LLM)
Aimee Costa
Chen-Yu Weng

CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND EMPLOYMENT LAW (MHREL)
Anna Adams
Elyse Belt
Jeanette Brzezinski
Robert Buckel-Gillis
Christopher Corwin
Vironica Crane
Casie Delaney
Essence Dixon
Lori Dodge
Miranda Duffrin
Abigail Elwart
Vanessa Franseen
Amy Friedl
Emma Hernandez
Kristin Kobb
Tiffany Kukla
David Laughner
Maysen Lindsay
Heather Porter
Terri Randolph
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<th>Candidates for Master of Legal Studies (MLS)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Omar Alabdulwahid</td>
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<td>Alicia M. Abeita</td>
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Teresa Lechuga
Brittany Lewis
Sydney Lewis
Abigail Lieser
Lillis Lloyd
Madeline Lockette
Zachary Love
Christian Magee
Keely Marquez
Brenda Marlo
Sharon Mattern
Christy Maxwell
Austin McGill
Michelle McKay
Brendan Mead
Trisha Mitobe
Kristen Moeschl
Kevin Morris
Elliot Muhlenfeld
Sonya Mukherjee
Caroline Murphy
Ashley Nabors
Rileyan Nallin
Anne-Marie Ndiho
Jason Nordin
Kerry Oconnor
Vanessa Olmos
Paulette Orozco
Gavin Oxley
Janis Palma
Jaylyn Parrent
Catalina Penunuri
Julie Phan
Michelle Pitt
Glen Poland
Mary Porter
Phillip Quinteros
Jeannette Rodriguez
Rosaicela Roman Gomez
Elizabeth Rosario
Nejra Sabanovic
Terri Saldamando
Natasha Savin
Faron Scissons
Caroline Smith
Nicole Stelmack
Blythe Stovall
David Szelewski
Scott Thompson
Natalie Timmons
Jorge Torres
Maat Van Uitert
Francesca Valli-Doherty
Randy Vargas-Lopez
Paola Vivelo
Desiree Walker
Pierre Walker
Olivia Warner
Jeffrey Weber
Meredith R. White
Loring Wiggins
Brittany Williams
Jennafur Williams-Majid
Washington Windsor
Lucas Woyton
Elizabeth Zingg
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<td>Emma Hill</td>
<td>Joshua Weisbly</td>
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CANDIDATES FOR THE CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH LAW AND POLICY

Aimee Costa

CANDIDATES FOR THE CERTIFICATE IN LAW AND SUSTAINABILITY

Timothy Miller
Ahmed Rez Hatefi Mofrad

Benjamin Timm

CANDIDATES FOR THE CERTIFICATE IN LAW, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Zachery Rufa

CANDIDATES FOR THE CERTIFICATE IN TRIAL ADVOCACY

Kailea Weitz
Michael Sabbah

Zachery Rufa
Nika Gardner
MASTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND EMPLOYMENT LAW (MHREL)

Lisa Barrow  
Kelsey Caylor  
Samuel Constant  
Charlotte Daugherty  
Savannah Lespron  
Ryan Means  
Ashley Powers  
Jessica Reilly  
Meaghan Tilton  
Megan Todino  
Deepika Wilson

MASTER OF LEGAL STUDIES (MLS)

Deanna Anderson  
Dakota Bartholomew  
Carolina Boehler Mazzucchelli  
Teresa Brooks  
Jeremy Cruz  
Brenda Defoe-Surprenant  
William Frankman III  
Conner Froke  
Dennis Gardea  
Kamara Gibbs  
Christopher Grando  
Kimberlee Guluzian  
Grace Hester  
Christopher B. Jenkins  
Anna Kelley  
Morgan McDermott  
Ankara McNeil  
Cindi Miceli  
Tye Mill  
Leah Morgan  
Raena Raebel  
Damien Ray  
Jessica Recla  
Anastasia Rynkowski  
Sydney Schiel  
Dhaima Service  
Ryan Shear  
Mariam Valenzuela  
Andrea Varner  
Danielle Whitaker  
Alena Wood  
Paul Zajac

MASTER OF SPORTS LAW AND BUSINESS (MSLB)

Michael Balaban  
Jacob Benabou  
Kaili Campbell  
Nora Deleske  
Grant House  
Mackenzie Hovsepian  
Griffin Limongelli  
Obren Manjencich  
Gordon Mason  
Maya Riddlesprigger  
Yodit Woldegebriel