In an era of major national and regional reforms in health care and public health, students and practitioners must be able to recognize, assess, and solve issues of law, ethics, and policy at the intersection of health care delivery and protection of community health. The nationally-ranked health law programs, projects, and initiatives at the ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law encompass an array of unique and emerging areas, including public health law and policy, personalized medicine, and neuroscience. Students may select from a diverse range of health law-related courses and opportunities tailored to their specific interests and led by acclaimed faculty, adjuncts, and partners. Students’ experiences are accentuated through related concentrations, certifications, and joint degrees offered by centers at ASU Law, Mayo Medical School, and other institutions. Knowledge and application of principles of law, ethics, and policy offer graduates public and private sector career opportunities in the high-demand fields of health care, public health, and technology.

Faculty at ASU Law, along with fellows, partners and practitioners, teach, research, publish, and speak nationally and internationally on cutting-edge areas of health law, policy, and ethics. This exceptional group of interdisciplinary experts explores legal tools, opportunities, and implications for national healthcare reform, precision medicine, public health, health technologies, neuroscience, global health policy, and industry regulation. Core faculty of these programs include:

- James G. Hodge, Jr.
- Kenneth Abbott
- Diana Bowman
- Sarah Buel
- Charles Calleros
- David Gartner
- Betsy Grey
- Myles V. Lynk
- Gary E. Marchant
- Michael J. Saks
- Laurence Winer

The Public Health Law & Policy (PHLP) program explores fascinating and emerging issues in public health law and policy. Topics include emergency legal preparedness, obesity, injury prevention, vaccination policy, and health care reform. PHLP brings students together with leading scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to address these critical challenges through an understanding of how law, ethics, policy, and the public’s health intersect. PHLP’s diverse group of scholars and partners seeks to promote the role of law as a tool for improving the public’s health by conducting targeted legal and public health research, developing innovative tools and educational materials, and collaborating with international, federal, state, tribal and local public health leaders. PHLP also hosts the Western Region Office of the Network for Public Health Law, supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which provides technical assistance to practitioners and attorneys nationwide, and allows students the opportunity to see real world implementation of public health law solutions. Public health law offers numerous careers nationally for lawyers invested in improving the health, safety, and lives of diverse people across communities.

ASU Law is part of an innovative set of clinical programs that pairs inventors, entrepreneurs, and emerging technology companies with law, business, and engineering students that provide multi-disciplinary services to startup ventures. The Healthcare Entrepreneurship Clinic partners law students interested in health law with early-stage Arizona businesses in the healthcare and technology arena. Students gain broad industry knowledge and personal experience with clients, solving legal problems related to formation, intellectual property, compliance and regulation, contracts, licensing, all within a health context. The clinic is directed by Dr. John Shufeldt (MD, JD, MBA), an ASU Law adjunct professor, alum, and co-founder of numerous health care businesses such as NextCare, Inc. The clinic provides students with incredible resources across law, medicine, and business, including expert instruction, client projects, and industry mentorship.

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Student Opportunities

Health law is a multifaceted area with a unique abundance of applications, contexts, and career paths. The programs at the ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law are a collaborative effort and are inclusive of several projects, faculty, and substantive areas, in and beyond the classroom. Students can take advantage of a combination of opportunities that include:

• Coursework in Health Law and Policy, Public Health Law & Ethics, Medical Malpractice, Health Technologies, Healthcare Fraud, FDA Regulation, Biotechnology, Bioethics, Genetics, Neuroscience, Law and Psychology, Reproductive Technologies, Research Ethics, Privacy, Scientific Evidence, Licensing and Litigation, and more. New courses are created frequently to address areas of student interest and employer demand.

• Graduation Certificates in Law, Science & Technology, with the option to specialize in Health Law or Genomics & Biotechnology that demonstrate expertise to employers and clients.

• Research opportunities through Research Cluster groups in Personalized Medicine and Neuroscience, Research Assistant positions, and independent study projects that allow students to work closely with faculty on legal, scientific research, and publications.

• Work with the Public Health Law & Policy (PHLP) Program on research, scholarship, and public health legal assistance requests through the Network for Public Health Law – Western Region Office.

• Clinical experience assisting clients in early-stage healthcare companies with legal challenges through the Healthcare Entrepreneurship Clinic.

• The Health Law Society (HLS), an active student organization facilitating speakers, events, and networking opportunities.

• LLM and MLS degree programs with an available emphasis in health law or public health law and policy, the LLM in Genomics & Biotechnology, and the JD/MD Dual Degree Program with Mayo Medical School offer additional degree options for non-lawyers and post-graduate law students looking to advance their careers in the health law field or healthcare industry.

Testimonials

“The health-specific programs and courses offered by ASU Law helped me to form a foundation of knowledge necessary to serve sophisticated health care clients on a daily basis.”
- Nick Meza, Class of 2013
Quarles & Brady LLP

“From engaging with leaders of emerging industries to facilitating preeminent scholarship on the Jurimetrics journal, the Center for Law, Science & Innovation’s programs provide me with the forum and the means to establish an unrivaled foundation at the nexus of law, science, and technology, particularly in areas of health law. In addition to educational support, these programs provide a collegial environment that encourages communication among students, faculty, and professionals; a resource that I know will prove invaluable as I transition into health law practice.”
- Chase Millea, Class of 2016

“The health law programs at ASU Law, and especially the Public Health Law Program, provided me with the education and skills to succeed both during and beyond law school. The opportunity to work on legal issues in real time alongside attorneys, academics, and government officials at all levels was an invaluable learning experience that led me to an internship with CDC and my current position at FDA.”
- Gregory Measer, Class of 2015
ORISE Fellow, U.S. Food and Drug Administration

“Researching for the Public Health Law and Policy Program has been the highlight of my law school experience. I learned how to use my legal skills to address critical public health objectives, and made lasting connections within the health and public health law fields. I am confident this experience has paved the way for a lifetime career in health law.”
- Sarah Wetter, Class of 2017

“The Health Law program allowed me to take advantage of various opportunities that have helped me in my post-law school career. Working for the Public Health Law and Policy Program, earning a certificate in Health Law and Genomics and Biotechnology Law, researching in the neuroscience research cluster, serving as president and treasurer of the Health Law Society, participating in the healthcare entrepreneurship clinic, and attending the countless networking opportunities with health law professionals allowed me to stand out from other candidates and establish myself in the health law community.”
- Kellie Manders, Class of 2015
BulaLaw, Carpenter Law Firm