

## Business Law

### Program Overview

The Business Law emphasis at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University offers students the opportunity to develop critical insights into the complex legal issues facing today's businesses. Students will learn how to advise companies and their leaders regarding formation, regulatory compliance, strategic decision making, and buying and selling businesses. The program offers an array of classes touching on all aspects of a business, as well as externship or work opportunities with entities ranging from major law firms and publicly traded corporations to federal and state regulatory agencies.

These courses and experiential opportunities will prepare students to advise businesses of all levels and sizes, from established multinational corporations to companies just getting off the ground.

ASU Law graduates who focus on business and transactional law will be well-positioned to succeed in a diverse and increasingly entrepreneurial world.

### Degrees Offered

**Juris Doctor (JD):** Students interested in business law can choose from a variety of courses and experiences designed to prepare them for a career advising and representing businesses big and small.

**Master of Laws (LLM):** Students who already have a JD or equivalent from a foreign law school can acquire additional knowledge and skills about business and transactional law by taking an additional year's worth of business-focused coursework.

Alternatively, LLM students may choose to participate in the Entrepreneurship Law & Strategy emphasis, focusing their studies on the unique legal and strategic challenges facing early stage ventures.

**Master of Legal Studies (MLS):** The Entrepreneurship Law & Strategy Program is designed for those who want to work in the startup ecosystem, whether as a funder, founder, or employee. This one-year program is aimed at those who do not intend to practice law, but who would like to understand the legal framework in which such businesses operate.

Alternatively, MLS students may study a more traditional corporate and business law curriculum – securities law, business organizations, corporate taxation, etc. – rather than focus on issues faced primarily by early stage companies.

### Why Business Law?

Corporate attorneys are often portrayed as deal breakers instead of deal makers, characterized as only telling their clients what they cannot do. We have a different approach. Our future lawyers learn to listen to their clients and understand their needs and main goals and then find ways to help their clients reach those goals. The focus is risk mitigation, not elimination.

To be an effective transactional attorney, one needs a solid foundation in a variety of commercial law topics as well as securities law, tax, and employment law. Client communications and strategic thinking are also key components for success.

This program is designed to expose students to the subject areas they will need if they are to advise clients on the many issues that arise in the business world. Students will get a mix of doctrinal and experiential courses that help them understand and create unique solutions for problems that businesses often face.

### Faculty Expertise

ASU Law has a number of faculty and practitioners with significant experience working for and advising corporations and other organizations.

**Charles Calleros** – international contracts

**Adam Chodorow** – tax and business planning

**Laura Coordes** – bankruptcy and secured transactions

**Aaron Fellmeth** – international business transactions

**Zachary Gubler** – securities regulation and finance

**Art Hinshaw** – negotiations

**Myles Lynk** – corporate governance and ethics

**Eric Menkhus** – technology entrepreneurship law and strategy

**Troy Rule** – secured transactions

**Erin Scharff** – tax and business planning



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### Courses Offerings

ASU Law offers a variety of courses to help prepare students for a career in commercial and corporate law.

#### Sample Doctrinal Courses

- Antitrust
- Banking Law
- Bankruptcy
- Business Entities Tax
- Business Immigration
- Business Organizations
- Corporate Governance Law
- Federal Income Tax
- International Contracts
- Law, Accounting, and Finance
- Private Property Rights
- Real Estate and Business Valuation
- Sales and Leases of Goods
- Secured Transactions
- Securities Regulation
- State and Local Taxation

#### Sample Experiential Classes

- Contract Drafting and Negotiation
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Negotiation
- Transaction Practice Readiness: Finance
- Transaction Practice Readiness: Real Estate

### Clinical Opportunities

The Innovation Advancement Program pairs inventors, technology entrepreneurs, tech transfer professionals, and emerging technology companies with some of ASU's brightest law students. Teams of two or three law students undertake a wide array of legal services that help early-stage venturers solidify their legal foundations, avoiding many of the mistakes and pitfalls often made when moving technology into the marketplace. Students are able to tap expertise from seasoned professionals at local law firms.

### Externships

ASU Law offers a variety of externships through which students can gain practical experience in commercial and corporate settings. The organizations and agencies include:

- Arizona Corporation Commission
- Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association
- ASU Office of General Counsel
- City of Mesa
- City of Scottsdale
- Phoenix Children's Hospital
- Scottsdale Unified School District
- Scottsdale Unified School District, Office of General Counsel
- United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Civil Division
- United States Bankruptcy Court

### Student Opportunities

In addition to the many academic experiences offered, students are encouraged to join the Corporate and Business Law Society, a student-run organization that hosts multiple networking events each semester, alongside educational lunches that are often sponsored by well-respected practitioners from around the valley. Furthermore, JD candidates in their second or third year may apply to compete in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, an annual international moot court arbitration held in Hong Kong and Vienna.

