Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
Arizona State University

Science and Technology Law

Program Overview

The Center for Law, Science and Innovation is a leader in addressing the extraordinary legal and regulatory challenges caused by rapid developments in science and technology. Founded over 30 years ago, the center at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University was the first in the country created to focus on addressing these challenges. As technology increasingly assumes a central role in our lives, the center is uniquely positioned to be an innovator and leader in the teaching and application of 21st-century law and policy. With this goal in mind, science and technology law programs constantly evolve to address contemporary legal questions through a rich program of course offerings, conferences and workshops, research projects, scholarship, expert consultation, and community outreach. ASU Law currently offers more than 60 science and technology-related courses, three clinical programs, and specialized externship opportunities, and is home to the American Bar Association's *Jurimetrics* journal.

Mission

Science and technology are rapidly transforming both the substance and practice of law. From robotics to genetics, nanotech to neuroscience, and blockchain to big data, new innovations are raising novel legal issues with regard to regulation, liability, privacy, intellectual property, and individual rights. ASU Law is dedicated to training 21st-century lawyers who will have the expertise and competitive advantage in managing the contemporary legal aspects of these advances. The philosophy of our science and technology law programs is that lawyers and the law should and do play a central role in the development and use of safe and beneficial emerging technologies by managing technology risks, promoting technology benefits, and providing a forum to address the ethical and social impacts of emerging technologies. At a time when technology has become all the more pervasive and powerful, law must become proactive and innovative, and opportunities for the modern lawyer are vast.

Faculty Expertise

The Center for Law, Science and Innovation includes over 40 faculty fellows and a multitude of affiliates who facilitate unique interdisciplinary study and dialogue. Our faculty's current focus areas include:

- 3D printers
- Anti-aging
- Artificial intelligence
- Autonomous vehicles
- Big data
- Bioethics
- Biotechnology
- Blockchain and cryptocurrency
- Cybersecurity
- Drones
- Genetics
- Health care technologies
- Human enhancement
- International coordination
- Internet of things
- Military technologies
- Nanotechnology
- National security
- Neurotechnology
- Patenting policy
- Personalized medicine
- Robotics/artificial intelligence
- Soft law/standards
- Sustainable technologies
- Synthetic biology
- Technology and access to justice
- Technology and privacy
- Technological unemployment

Annual Conferences

Since 2013, the center has hosted the Annual Conference on Governance of Emerging Technologies and Science at ASU Law. This distinctive event consists of presentations and discussions on legal, policy, social, and ethical aspects of emerging technologies, including nanotechnology, biotechnology, genomics, human enhancement, telecommunications, surveillance and data analytics, sustainability, neuroscience, and robotics. The conference is premised on the belief that there is much to be learned and shared from and across the governance experience for new technologies. It is a truly interdisciplinary forum of scientists, lawyers, regulators, philosophers, ethicists and others. In addition, the center annually hosts conferences on eDiscovery and digital evidence, and neuroscience law and ethics, as well as several expert roundtable workshops. These events bring together renowned thought leaders, facilitate dialogue, create unique networking opportunities and engage our students.

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Student Opportunities

The Center for Law, Science and Innovation aims to support and connect our students with our programs' vast resources. The center collaborates with programs in health, sustainability, and international law to create an interdisciplinary understanding of science and technology issues that are crucial for the modern lawyer. Specifically, the center offers unique opportunities for students that include:

- Graduation certificates in Law, Science and Technology, with the option to specialize in areas such as intellectual property; life sciences and biotechnology; and data, privacy and security.
- Small research cluster groups, where students work closely with faculty peers to research and write a publishable article in the areas of artificial intelligence, law and neuroscience, personalized medicine, and governance of emerging technologies.
- Annual conferences and workshops on hot topics in neuroscience, eDiscovery and digital evidence, molecular diagnostics, and technology governance, with new events each year on emerging issues such as blockchain, artificial intelligence, GMOs and anti-aging technologies.
- Editorial positions and publication opportunities with *Jurimetrics: the Journal for Law, Science and Technology,* published by ASU Law in collaboration with the ABA's Section of Science and Technology Law.
- Clinical work placements assisting startup companies from the ASU community with their modern legal needs through the Innovation Advancement Program and Healthcare Entrepreneurship Clinic, or direct work experience with the USPTO in conjunction with the Lisa Foundation Patent Law Clinic.
- LLM and MLS degree programs, including a specialized degree in Genomics and Biotechnology, training lawyers and other professionals to be fluent in governance and policy issues for fast-evolving technologies.
- Collaborations with student organizations to host speakers, events and networking opportunities.

Testimonials

"I recommend that all law students with a passion or interest in scientific development get involved with the Center for Law, Science and Innovation. As a Center Scholar for all three years of my education at ASU Law, I had the incredible opportunity to attend events hosted by the Center, including an eDiscovery conference and a neuroscience conference on the Aging Brain. I have also toured two local bioscience companies to learn the relevant legal implications of company research or products. Participating in the Intellectual Property and Life Science cohorts have connected me with practitioners in the local legal community. The cohorts have also taught me about the legal implications of new technology and recent court decisions. I am so thankful that I was a part of the Center for my law school career, and I will carry an interest in new technology and how it impacts the law even after I graduate."

- Jessica Kemper, JD '19 Candidate
Center Scholar

"The Center allowed me to be flexible and experiment with my legal education. My focus was on national security in law school, and the Center provided both a resource and a forum for me to explore the most pressing legal issues related to how science and technology interact with national security. The classes I attended, which dealt with issues ranging from data privacy to artificial intelligence, allowed abstract consideration of complex legal concepts, while a task force I helped create on cybersecurity through the Center put me in contact with real practitioners in the field. I know I will be a better attorney as a result of these experiences."

- Jordan A. Brunner, JD '18

"The breadth of emerging technology courses offered at ASU Law allowed me to pursue my passion for science, innovation, and the law by preparing me for important issues I was either sure to encounter in my career or that I would find fascinating regardless. I found the courses to be engaging, exciting and innovative. I appreciated being able to branch out from traditional law school curriculum to better hone my skills in areas of the law I was, and still am, most passionate about."

- Justin N. Redman, JD '10
Assistant General Counsel, GoDaddy

"As a law student, the center gave me the opportunity to see the legal issues cast by emerging technologies. The technology transfer class, for example, exposed me to the nuances of licensing, informed consent, the regulatory process, and related ethical concerns. Moreover, our team project was to determine the viability of marketing a new invention that was submitted to the technology transfer office of the university. It is because of these invaluable lessons that I learned early on in my career that I am still active with the center both as a fellow and as a member of the community board."

- May Mowzoon, JD '04
Senior Legal Counsel, Intel Corp