ASU begins search for next Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law dean

Following a 10-year run as dean of ASU Law, Douglas Sylvester has decided to step down due to personal reasons. Adam Chodorow and Zachary Kramer have been named co-deans in the interim while the university searches for a permanent successor.

As part of this transition, ASU has requested that Sylvester continue with the university in a consultative capacity for the upcoming academic year.

ASU Foundation awarded $250,000 grant to conduct Sentinel Event Review of police use of force

The grant will be a joint project among three centers of excellence at Arizona State University: the Academy for Justice and the Lodestar Dispute Resolution Center at ASU Law and the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing at the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions. The project was chosen for its vision of applying SER — a process that combines elements of alternative dispute resolution and criminal justice reform — to incidents of police violence.
The Difference Engine at ASU names Follett as 1st executive board member

Follett’s exemplary commitment to providing students from all socioeconomic backgrounds access to books that focus on diversity through programs such as ACCESS, #AllBooksForAllKids and Titlewave, fits squarely within the Difference Engine’s mission to create products communities can use to end structural inequality.

ASU launches water safety education program with Michael Phelps Foundation, Phoenix Children’s

A nexus between ASU Law’s Center for Public Health Law and Policy and its Allan “Bud” Selig Sports Law and Business program, the initiative is part of a larger research effort that the law school is undertaking to address water safety specifically, as well as injury prevention more broadly.

Student Highlights

Phoenix law firm extends ASU Law scholarship, fellowship program to improve diversity in legal field

What initially began as a partnership of Fennemore Craig and ASU Law to drive meaningful change by growing the pipeline of diverse candidates from the law school has been renewed by the firm for an additional two years so that more students like Nyla Knox and Spencer Shockness get the support they need.

ASU Law transfer student pursues career passion, lands summer opportunity

ASU Law Connect recently heard from Kenneth Moody, a transfer student from Tennessee who will be a 3L this fall, on how he went after securing the ideal summer job. Here’s what he had to say:
“Transferring law schools can be difficult, especially during a pandemic. I decided to transfer to ASU Law not only because of its quality of education and job numbers, but also to get away from the humidity of middle Tennessee and explore the desert. I left all of my connections and most of my support system behind in Tennessee (besides my lovely wife). Because of this, I knew that I would have a harder time finding a summer job.

“After months of networking with local attorneys, one of my friends recommended contacting Matt Fendon over at Matt Fendon Law Group. Matt has an outstanding workers’ compensation practice, which I was very interested in thanks to an employment law class I was taking. I took the initiative and contacted Matt over LinkedIn, and he was happy to connect with me over coffee. We instantly connected over our shared love for Nashville. One thing led to another, and now I am five weeks into working with Matt. I love being part of a team that is dedicated to helping injured workers navigate a complex workers’ compensation system.

“Whether you have a job or are looking for a job, take initiative and build genuine connections with lawyers in the community. The legal community here wants to help law students and wants you to succeed.”

Faculty in the News

Two new visiting assistant professors join ASU Law

Starting this fall, Chinonso Anozie and Kip Hustace will be joining ASU Law for two years. Anozie will teach a seminar on Global Environmental Justice, and Hustace will teach a seminar on Equity in Education.

Former ILP faculty member promoted at Smithsonian

Kevin Gover, a highly respected faculty member in ASU Law’s Indian Legal Program before he became director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian, has been named Under Secretary for Museums and Culture. The position oversees the Smithsonian’s history and art museums, its cultural centers, and the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Exhibits and the National Collections Program.

May 2021

- Arizona Lifts Ban on Sheriff’s Deputies Practicing Law
  - Featuring: Art Hinshaw
- The Muscogee Nation Wants Its Policing To Focus On Prevention Along With Enforcement
  - Featuring: Stacy Leeds
- State’s Attorney Marilyn Mosby tries to limit access to public documents
  - Featuring: Gregg Leslie
- Resistance to vaccine mandates is building. A powerful network is helping.
  - Featuring: James Hodge Jr.

June 2021

- ASU launches water safety education program to reduce child drownings
  - Featuring: Diana Bowman
- Tribal police may detain non-tribal members. Supreme Court rules
  - Featuring: Robert Miller
- Pima County sheriff illegally withholding public records, experts say
  - Featuring: Gregg Leslie
- George Floyd Act, city budget aim to bring changes to policing in Phoenix
  - Featuring: Ben McJunkin
- How Congress can fight Hamas’s use of human shields
  - Featuring: Orde F. Kittrie
- Law—Not Science—Impedes Shift to Non-Animal Safety Testing
  - Featuring: Gary Marchant
- U.S. Supreme Court Ruling On College Athletes A ‘Very, Very Big Deal’
  - Featuring: Glenn Wong
Alumni News

ASU alumna named Miss Arizona will compete in 100th anniversary of Miss America

Three-time Arizona State University graduate Amber Barto (ASU Law MLS alumna) was recently crowned Miss Arizona 2021 and will go on to compete in the 100th anniversary celebration of the Miss America competition this December.

Read more

ASU Law alumni featured in Sun Devil 100 Class of 2021

Congratulations to the 132 Sun Devil alumni who own and lead the 100 businesses that were recognized in this year’s Sun Devil 100 Class of
2021, including two ASU Law alumni, Brad Shwer of Thorpe Shwer and Tyler Allen of Tyler Allen Law Firm. Watch highlight video here.

Alumna named one of the Most Influential Women in Arizona Business for 2021

Congratulations to ASU Law alumna Meghan H. Grabel who has been named one of the Most Influential Women in Arizona Business for 2021 by AZ BIG Media. Grabel is a 2001 ASU Law alumna and partner at Osborn Maledon.

2011 alumna named partner at national law firm

Congratulations to ASU Law alumna Lea A. Phillips who has been named partner at the national law firm of Ballard Spahr LLP. Phillips is also a 2007 graduate of Barrett, The Honors College. Phillips focuses on serving the renewable energy, manufacturing, and waste/recycling industries.

Events

2021 Gold 'n Gavel Auction and Reception
Friday, November 19 | Beus Center for Law and Society & Virtual

Join us to celebrate ASU Law's 50 years of global impact, while raising money for our students and programs. Over the last seven years, our Gold 'n Gavel event helped to collectively raise over $600,000. A huge part of the event's success is due to the support from our donors' participation in the silent and live auctions. For this year's event, you will be able to join us in-person or virtually. Our goal is to raise $100,000, and you can help us reach this milestone by becoming a sponsor or donating an auction item.

Learn more and purchase tickets here

Share your favorite memory

To celebrate ASU Law's 50 years of impact (extended because of COVID-19 pandemic), check out the law school's 50 years of impact webpage and scroll through past milestones and memories submitted by fellow colleagues, law school faculty and staff.

We also want to hear from you! Submit your favorite memory while at ASU Law below.
Engineering Change Speaker Series:
Access to Legal Education - Are Prisons the New Frontier?
Tuesday, July 20 | 9:30 a.m. MST (AZ time)

The law school application process is tough and harder still for those not from privileged backgrounds. It is expensive, time-consuming, and confusing even for those who have monetary support, time, and family resources to aid them. The process is especially exclusionary for the currently incarcerated or those with a prior criminal record. It is here, in prison, that Dean Anthony Niedwiecki of Mitchell Hamline Law School wants to begin expanding access to a law school education.

At our next Engineering Change speaker series, Dean Niedwiecki will share how he’s building a "prison to law school pipeline" and why he believes the incarcerated should be given a fair shot at a legal education, particularly because access to a legal education is already scarce in places he calls "law school deserts."

This event is virtual and is presented by The Difference Engine.

Donor Spotlight

Jonathan Negretti ’12
Negretti & Associates
Founder and Principle Attorney

What led you to give back to ASU Law?
I did not get into ASU Law when I first applied to law school. I called the director of admissions and asked what I had to do to transfer in after my 1L year. The director told me to work hard, get good grades, get involved with student organizations, and get to know my professors. I did all of that during my 1L year. When I applied to transfer into ASU after my 1L year, I told ASU Law that if they admitted me, I would be forever grateful and give back to ASU Law for taking a chance on me. ASU Law admitted me as a transfer student in the fall of 2011. I have been giving back to ASU ever since.

Why do you feel it is important to philanthropically support ASU Law?
ASU Law places a strong emphasis on diversity and social justice. ASU Law’s wide array of classes gives students a well-rounded education while imparting the practical side of law through externships. ASU Law is committed to keeping tuition affordable and granting access to non-traditional students. ASU Law’s values are aligned with my own value set. I think it’s important to do my own little part to further ASU Law’s commitment to our community.
What excites you the most about the future and our next generation of lawyers and legal sector leaders?
I truly believe that we are on the precipice of a seismic shift in the legal profession. Technology combined with public expectation will drive the evolution of the law. The next generation of lawyers and legal sector leaders will lead that charge, working smarter to provide access to legal services to the masses.

What advice do you have for our students as they embark on the next chapter of their lives?
Keep what you do in perspective. Although important, and incredibly difficult at times, don’t let this profession define you. Rather, go define the impact that you will have in this profession. Don’t forget where you came from and why you joined this profession in the first place. Give back, do good, be a human first.

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

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