

CONNECT newsletter | May 2021



ASU Law celebrates its class of 2021 graduates

ASU Law welcomed its newest alumni following virtual and in-person celebrations of its spring 2021 graduates. The [festivities](#) began in April when graduates had the opportunity to be hooded in the BCLS Great Hall, followed by a May 12 convocation video viewing event with small groups gathering in person and hundreds more watching with their family and friends.

The video includes convocation speakers [Van Jones, CNN host and Dream Corps founder, and Arizona Secretary of State Katie Hobbs](#), an ASU master's degree alumna, in addition to student convocation speakers Sally Young, MLS candidate, Tanner Benjamin Lipson and Erin Riggs Oliphant, MSLB candidates, and Emiley F. Pagrabs, JD candidate.

To view the [video](#) and see other highlights including the spring convocation [booklet](#) and stories of [notable grads](#), click the button below.

[Learn more](#)

The
McCarthy
Institute



Renowned McCarthy Institute, led by intellectual property expert David Franklyn, becomes part of ASU Law

ASU Law announces the addition of the McCarthy Institute and Executive Director David Franklyn to the college's [Intellectual Property Law Program](#).

[Read more](#)



Inaugural Public Interest Fellows selected

ASU Law has selected 18 students as its first Public Interest Fellows, funding the students' efforts to work in nonprofit organizations that advance social, cultural and structural changes including social justice reform.

[Read more](#)

ASU Law advances 'Future Fifty' initiative to support next generation of women in law

ASU Law's Future Fifty initiative aims to provide meaningful opportunities for female students, highlighting women's contributions to law, and cementing the legacy of women's work within the law through philanthropy.

[Read more](#)

ASU experts produce special Jurimetrics issue on soft law

Led by the [Center for Law, Science and Innovation](#) at ASU Law, prominent legal and technology scholars published a [special issue](#) of *Jurimetrics*, The Journal of Law, Science, and Technology, to explore the role of soft law in governing emerging technologies.

[Read more](#)

ASU partners with Amnesty International on human rights course

A partnership among Amnesty International, ASU Law and the Thunderbird School of Global Management, a new advocacy course is being offered to in Arabic to the human rights organization's staff who are eager to help their communities.

[Read more](#)

Student Highlights



ASU Law spring '21 grads share their journeys

Here are just a few of the notable ASU Law spring grads, the roads they've traveled to get here and the stories that shaped their time here.

- [ASU Law student views online MLS pursuit as 'rocket ride to the moon' in furthering career, life goals](#)
- [ASU Law online grad gains the legal skills needed to pursue his entrepreneurial dreams](#)
- [ASU Law grad is taking a lifetime of rigorous athletic training to an aspiring career in sports](#)
- [A teenager when she started law school, ASU Law dual grad looks ahead to a bright future](#)
- [JD grad applies Tibetan practices to navigate law school](#)
- [ASU Law grad takes sports law degree and lands dream job in baseball](#)
- [Chicago Bears chairman becomes three-peat ASU alum with Master of Laws degree](#)
- [ASU Law JD grad focuses on making a difference for other first-generation students](#)



ASU Law students engage with other universities to resolve simulated international crisis

As a country in southeastern Europe devolved into simulated political crisis and chaos, more than 50 undergraduate, graduate and law school students from six universities scrambled to analyze information, engage in diplomacy with other teams and strategize to resolve the crisis.

[Read more](#)

Faculty in the News



Interior Department Announces Newest Members of Agency Team

The U.S. Department of the Interior announced key members of agency leadership who will join the team working to advance the Biden-Harris administration's agenda on behalf of the American people. ASU Law Professor Lawrence (Larry) Roberts has been named Chief of Staff.

[Read more](#)

March 2021

- **Employers Risk ADA Liability by Relying on Faulty Medical Exams**
 - Featuring: Michael Selmi
- **Air Force Judge Advocate Generals School Podcast - 36. The Legal Profession in 2021 & Beyond**
 - Featuring: Douglas Sylvester and Ray English
- **Opinion: The COVID-19 vaccine should be an on-campus requirement**
 - Featuring: Jennifer L. Platt

April 2021

- **New members named to Center for Indian Country Development leadership council**
 - Featuring: Robert Miller
- **Interior Department chief of staff being removed from post after indoor party fiasco**
 - Featuring: Larry Roberts
- **Pandemic accelerating shift toward electric vehicles**
 - Featuring: Gary Marchant
- **Preparing for Virtual Graduations**
 - Featuring: Thomas Williams
- **What are your rights when you get pulled over in a traffic stop?**
 - Featuring: Ben McJunkin
- **Lawsuits against Robinhood in the GameStop saga are getting their day in court — but there's one big snag**
 - Featuring: Victoria Sahani
- **Biden wants to restore U.S. role in fight against climate change. Here's how the U.S. shaped past efforts.**
 - Featuring: Daniel Bodansky
- **Anonymous jury in Derek Chauvin trial part of a growing trend that has some legal experts worried**
 - Featuring: Gregg Leslie
- **Wildlife as property owners? An ASU law professor puts the theory to practice in Phoenix**
 - Featuring: Karen Bradshaw
- **Arizona says it's prepared to lose a fifth of its Colorado River water share**
 - Featuring: Rhett Larson

May 2021

- **Renewing justice for atrocities**
 - Featuring: Clint Williamson
- **The legalities of a "vaccine passport"**
 - Featuring: James G. Hodge Jr.
- **Arizona Senate, Maricopa Co. mull next steps in standoff over routers subpoenaed in vote audit**
 - Featuring: Michael Saks, Paul Bender
- **D.C. statehood would advance criminal justice reform**
 - Featuring: Valena Beety



The Arizona Bar Examination: Pandemic Edition

By Supreme Court of Arizona Chief Justice Robert M. Brutinel and Vice Chief Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer
[ASU Law alumna]

When the pandemic hit last spring, our initial focus was on keeping Arizona's courts open and functioning. We quickly turned our attention to the July 2020 exam; could we keep that date? Continue it? What would happen to the applicants if licensure was delayed? Not knowing whether we could hold an exam in any format, the first thing we did was implement a strategy to permit graduates to temporarily practice law without passing a bar exam.

[Read more](#)

Events



Gold 'n Gavel 2021

Auction and Reception

Friday, November 19, 2021 | Virtual & In-person

It is our pleasure to announce our [2021 Gold 'n Gavel Auction and Reception](#) "50 Years of Global Impact" on **Friday, November 19** at the Beus Center for Law and Society at the ASU Downtown Phoenix campus. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to get together to celebrate ASU Law's many achievements, all while raising money for our students and programs. We had to cancel last year's event because of the pandemic, and we are excited to announce that we are back on this year.

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 [donating an auction item](#) or [making a financial contribution](#).

[Learn more](#)

Donor Spotlight



Denise Blommel, JD '78 and Don Doerres

What led you to give back to ASU Law?

ASU Law in the 1970s was way ahead of its time. We had women students and professors. We had internships and special classes. We had professors who cared. I made lifelong friends at ASU Law and received an excellent academic basis for my career. I want the same for our next generation of lawyers.

Why do you feel it is important to philanthropically support ASU Law?

So that our students may have opportunities that will give them a collegial and professional foundation.

What excites you the most about the future and our next generation of lawyers and legal sector leaders?

The embrace of new technologies and the empathy that ASU students have. Lawyers are problem-solvers but also have to be caring individuals. I think empathy and technology can co-exist.

What advice do you have for our students as they embark on the next chapter of their lives?

Make friends and keep in contact with your classmates. Pay attention to personal wellness. Be a great listener. Be honest and fair. Make the world a better place.

**Join the
conversation
on LinkedIn**



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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