

# Douglas J. Sylvester

## Dean and Professor of Law

**ASU** Sandra Day O'Connor  
College of Law  
Arizona State University



Douglas Sylvester is the dean of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. Since Sylvester took over as dean in 2011, ASU Law has:

- Established itself as one of the nation's top-25 law schools, offering a wide range of courses taught by world-class faculty.
- Moved from its longtime home in Tempe into the brand-new Beus Center for Law and Society in downtown Phoenix, providing students with greater opportunities and access to the legal, political, and economic heart of Arizona.
- Remained focused on quality outcomes, maintaining high bar-passage rates and a consistent top-20 ranking for gainful employment, and offering an array of career-enhancing opportunities to alumni through the Law for Life program.
- Dramatically increased fundraising and the number of scholarships offered.

Effecting such change has been a collaborative effort, not only among ASU Law staff, but among the entire leadership team at ASU. Working as a loosely coupled sector within one of the largest schools in the country requires cooperation, planning, and prioritization.

### **ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY: By the numbers**

- Total enrollment of 98,146 (as of fall 2016)
- 6 campuses (Tempe, Downtown, Polytechnic, West, Thunderbird, Skysong)
- 14,672 employees
- 425 undergraduate and 493 graduate degrees offered
- Over \$518 million spent on research in 2016
- Ranked No. 1 in the U.S. for innovation the last two years, ahead of No. 2 Stanford and No. 3 MIT (U.S. News & World Report)
- No. 5 for producing the best-qualified graduates (Wall Street Journal)
- No. 9 in the U.S. for employability, ahead of MIT, Columbia, Johns Hopkins, Duke, UCLA and the University of California (Times Higher Education)
- Named one of the best graduate schools in the country (U.S. News & World Report)

*"We do things differently, and we constantly try new approaches. Our students' paths to discovery don't have to stay within the boundaries of a single discipline. Our researchers team up with colleagues from disparate fields of expertise. We use technology to enhance the classroom and reach around the world. We partner with cities, nonprofits and corporations to support our advances as the higher-education economy evolves. This ranking recognizes the new model we have created."*

— ASU President Michael Crow, on the university being ranked No. 1 for innovation

*"We are fortunate to be part of a university with the size and success of ASU, in a thriving metro area like Phoenix. Partnerships throughout the campus and region have proven mutually beneficial, strengthening ASU Law, the overall university and surrounding community."*

— ASU Law Dean Douglas Sylvester

**Prestige matters.** A law degree from a reputable school opens more doors and opportunities. At the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, we make it our mission, guided from the top to bottom, to help students pursue their dreams. Our personalized and comprehensive approach to legal education helps ensure this mission is realized. Further, we invest in students and their experiences by offering more than \$10 million a year in scholarships and positioning them in a dynamic and supportive legal, political, and business community in thriving downtown Phoenix. We also help launch graduates into careers whether that is in Phoenix or anywhere around the country. Students are able to get great overall value from a tight-knit law school community that is part of a highly connected, resourced university.

### **SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR COLLEGE OF LAW: By the numbers**

- Total enrollment of 1,107 (as of fall 2017)
- Over 450 new students in fall 2017, the largest incoming class ever
- Over 70 full-time faculty and professors of practice, as well as dozens of adjunct faculty
- 250 unique courses offered each year
- 4 degree programs (JD, LLM, MLS, and Master of Sports Law and Business)
- 300 externship placements available each year
- 90% of students voluntarily participate in public service
- 40 student organizations, including 15 student-led pro bono groups
- Ranked No. 25 law school in the country (U.S. News & World Report)
- 90% of first-year entering JD students receive scholarships
- No. 8 public law school (No. 3 in the West)
- No. 22 law school in the world (Academic Ranking of World Universities)
- Top 20 the past three years for job placement, and No. 3 among public law schools (American Bar Association)
- Top-25 programs in legal writing (No. 6), dispute resolution (No. 10), health law (No. 16), international law (No. 18), and environmental law (No. 23)

*"The different offices where the students have been placed have been pleased with the work the students have done, so it becomes a sort of self-perpetuating process. You have a combination of tremendously talented students, you have a supportive law school, and you have word going around that these are opportunities that are good to afford the students, and it's going to benefit courts or other places where the opportunities are offered."*

— Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice and ASU Law Adjunct Professor Scott Bales, on the law school's successful externship program

*"The school has played an important role in the local community. And its student body, although always very good, has gotten better and better and better."*

— 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeal Judge and ASU Law Adjunct Professor, Andrew Hurwitz

*"It's innovative in a number of ways, but its focus on public-interest work and experiential work, rather than just classroom teaching, is just outstanding."*

— Arizona Supreme Court Justice and ASU Law Adjunct Professor, Clint Bolick