

# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court  
Administrative Office of the Courts



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## Law Day Message from Chief Justice Robert Brutinel

PHOENIX – The nation recognizes Law Day on May 1 each year, celebrating the United States’ commitment to the rule of law. The theme selected by the American Bar Association for 2021 is “Advancing the Rule of Law, Now.” Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Brutinel asked Patricia Lee Refo, a partner at the Phoenix office of the law firm of Snell & Wilmer and president of the American Bar Association, to share her thoughts on the meaning of this year’s Law Day message.

Ms. Refo stated, “A host of recent events have sorely tested our American institutions and our very way of life. Throughout it all, however, the rule of law prevailed. But we have again been reminded that we all need to work to protect the rule of law in our society, to ensure that the law treats all equally, that everyone is accountable, that our judiciary is independent, and human rights are guaranteed for every person. As we celebrate Law Day, remember that, as lawyers, we must be guardians of the laws that hold our nation together. Know that the American Bar Association stands with you.”

Chief Justice Brutinel said, “This year’s Law Day theme of ‘Advancing the Rule of Law, Now’ resonates with Arizona’s judicial branch. Arizona’s judiciary has a long history of innovation to find effective, efficient ways to improve access to justice and to serve those who depend on our courts. In cooperation with the State Bar of Arizona, Arizona’s judiciary strives to remain at the forefront of advancing the rule of law now and in the future.”

For recent examples of what Arizona has done to advance the rule of law, see the Access to Justice Commission’s 2020 annual report at <https://tinyurl.com/4k24228r> and the annual update for the judiciary’s Strategic Agenda, *Justice for the Future, Planning for Excellence*, at <https://www.azcourts.gov/Portals/0/Strategic%20Agenda/StrategicAgendaUpdate2020.pdf>.

Law Day was conceived in 1957 by the then president of the American Bar Association, Charles Rhynes, who wanted a national day to commemorate the country’s commitment to the rule of law. President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed May 1 as Law Day the following year. Three years later in 1961, Congress passed a joint resolution making May 1 the official date for the national celebration of Law Day. Arizonans are encouraged to celebrate the day by learning about the judicial branch and its role in American government.

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