

# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court  
Administrative Office of the Courts



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## Law Day Message from Chief Justice Robert Brutinel

PHOENIX – Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Brutinel marks his first Law Day as Chief Justice with a message of thanks to the judges, clerks of court, judicial branch staff, probation staff, and the public. The quick and continuing adjustments Arizona’s courts have made in response to the pandemic have required extraordinary levels of patience, communication, and coordination.

Chief Justice Brutinel stated, “Arizona’s courts regularly decide cases affecting citizens’ fundamental rights to liberty, regarding their children and families, ensuring public and personal safety and supervising people on probation and in detention. Our judges and court employees continue to put themselves at risk to ensure that the courts remain open to resolve these essential and emergency matters. I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of the people who work in our courts.”

Americans celebrate Law Day on May 1 each year, usually with events, seminars, moot court competitions, and other activities taking place around the state and nation to commemorate the United States’ commitment to the rule of law. This year, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, those opportunities had to be cancelled, suspended, or moved to virtual events. Regardless of the format, and particularly in these times of maintaining rights and services in new and adaptable ways, all Americans are encouraged to reflect on the rule of law, access to justice, and the foundations of our country’s legal system.

Working together as individuals and as a nation is a hallmark of the United States’ system of participative government. To recognize Law Day and the unique impacts of the current pandemic, Chief Justice Brutinel recorded a message of thanks to Arizona’s judicial branch: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtlZzNDKpHY0W1jN2KhqV-g>

This year’s Law Day theme is “Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100.” Led by the women’s suffrage movement, 2020 marks the centennial of the constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to vote, regardless of a citizen’s sex. The Arizona Supreme Court obtained a six-panel display exhibit from the American Bar Association of the background and history of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment’s adoption and ratification. The exhibit has been displayed in Phoenix and Kingman and will continue its tour around the state when courts reopen to the public.

The American Bar Association states that Law Day was conceived in 1957 by its president at the time, 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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To learn more about Arizona's judicial branch, visit [www.azcourts.gov](http://www.azcourts.gov).

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