Overview

The Public Health Law & Policy (PHLP) program explores emerging issues at the intersection of law, ethics, and the promotion of the public’s health. PHLP’s diverse group of scholars and partners seeks to promote the role of law as a tool for improving the public’s health by conducting targeted legal and public health research, developing innovative tools and educational materials, and collaborating with international, federal, state, tribal, and local public health leaders and practitioners.

PHLP brings students together with leading scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to address critical challenges in multiple areas. Research and applied topics include emergency legal preparedness, obesity and injury prevention, vaccination policy, and health care reform, among others.

PHLP also works closely with numerous public health agencies and entities including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness (ASPR), Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO).

The field of public health law offers numerous career opportunities nationally for lawyers invested in improving the health, safety, and lives of diverse populations. Students may select from an increasing number of public health law-related courses and opportunities tailored to their specific interests and led by acclaimed faculty, adjuncts, and partners. Students’ experiences are accentuated through related concentrations, certifications, and joint degrees offered by centers at ASU Law, Mayo Medical School, and other institutions.

The Network for Public Health Law and Other Projects

PHLP hosts the Western Region Office of the Network for Public Health Law (Network), supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Founded in 2010, the Network’s goal is to increase the use and effectiveness of law as a method to protect and promote the public’s health. Network attorneys provide technical legal assistance to practitioners, policymakers, advocates, and attorneys nationally. The Network also provides monthly topical webinars and convenes a biennial national conference.

The Network is divided into 5 geographical regions, each of which provides topical expertise on specific areas. The Western Region Office focuses on emergency legal preparedness, and vaccination law although it provides assistance on numerous other topics. It has received hundreds of requests for technical assistance, outreach opportunities, works of scholarship, presentations, and lectures.
Public health law is a multifaceted field with an abundance of applications, contexts, and career paths. Programs at ASU Law collaborate on several projects and areas within and beyond the classroom. Students can take advantage of opportunities that include:

- Coursework in Public Health Law & Ethics, Health Law and Policy, Healthcare Fraud, FDA Regulation, Bioethics, Genetics, Neuroscience, Law and Psychology, Research Ethics, Privacy, Scientific Evidence, Licensing and Litigation, and more. New courses address emerging areas of student interest and employer demand.

- Graduation certificates with a concentration in Health Law that demonstrate expertise to employers and clients.

- Research positions with PHLP focus on providing assistance to the Western Region Office to produce scholarship and address public health technical legal assistance requests. Legal researchers collaborate with experts across the nation, co-author on diverse pieces of scholarship including placement in premier law and public health journals, and attend regional and national conferences and events.

- Participation in the student-led Health Law Society, an active organization facilitating speakers, events, and networking opportunities.

- LLM and MLS degree programs in health law or public health law and policy, LLM in Genomics & Biotechnology, and the JD/MD Dual Degree Program with Mayo Medical School offer additional degree options for non-lawyers and post-graduate law students looking to advance their health careers.

Our faculty, fellows, adjuncts, and practitioners teach, research, publish, and speak on cutting-edge areas of public health law, policy, and ethics. This exceptional group of interdisciplinary experts explores legal opportunities and implications for public health domestically and globally.

PHLP faculty include:

- James G. Hodge, Jr.
- Kenneth Abbott
- Diana Bowman
- Sarah Buel
- David Gartner
- Myles V. Lynk
- Gary E. Marchant
- Michael J. Saks

"The health law programs at ASU, and especially the Public Health Law Program, provided me with the education and skills to succeed both during and beyond law school. The opportunity to work on legal issues in real time alongside attorneys, academics, and government officials at all levels was an invaluable learning experience that led me to an internship with CDC and my current position at FDA."

- **Gregory Measer, Class of 2015**
  ORISE Fellow, U.S. Food and Drug Administration

"Working for the Public Health Law and Policy Program, earning a certificate in Health Law and Genomics and Biotechnology Law, researching in the neuroscience research cluster, serving as President and Treasurer of the Health Law Society, participating in the healthcare entrepreneurship clinic, and attending the countless networking opportunities with health law professionals allowed me to stand out from other candidates and establish myself in the health law community."

- **Kellie Manders, Class of 2015**
  BulaLaw, Carpenter Law Firm

"Researching for the Public Health Law and Policy Program has been the highlight of my law school experience. I learned how to use my legal skills to address critical public health objectives, and made lasting connections within the health and public health law fields. I am confident this experience has paved the way for a lifetime career in health law."

- **Sarah Wetter, Class of 2017**
  Intern, CDC Public Health Law Program