Project Excellence Awards for Distinguished Legal Studies
Nomination Form
Funded by Rebecca and Michael Berch

Barrett seeks nominations of students excelling in legal research and analysis. Nominees must have successfully completed or be currently enrolled in at least one Project Excellence course offered at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law and have submitted a law-related Honors thesis prospectus. In special circumstances in lieu of an Honors thesis a nominee may submit other indicia of excellence in legal writing and analysis.

Award amounts:
- 1st Prize: $2,500; 2nd Prize: $1,500; 3rd Prize: $1,000

Process:
- Students may be nominated by any full time faculty member
- Nominations must be submitted by January 8, 2013 for Spring 2013 graduates. (Thesis prospectuses are due September 21, 2012.)
- Nomination must include 1) thesis title; 2) thesis summary; 3) future career goals; 4) faculty endorsement; in addition to general student demographic and contact information.
- Nominees will be reviewed by a panel of faculty and using the following criteria: 1) Excellence in legal research and analysis; 2) potential for leadership and impact in the community
- Award is contingent upon final completion and submission of thesis.
- Awards will be presented at a special reception with the donor and interested alumni and community members.

About the Donors

Michael Berch

Michael Berch is the Alan A. Matheson Distinguished Professor of Law at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law and is an Honors Disciplinary Faculty member of Barrett, The Honors College at ASU. Since 1969, he taught a wide variety of courses, including Federal Courts, Civil Procedure, Conflict of Laws, Law and the Regulatory State and Professional Responsibility. He coached many of ASU’s winning Moot Court teams and has written extensively.

A popular teacher, Professor Berch has visited at numerous institutions, and received many teaching honors, including the ASU Alumni Association Distinguished Teacher Award in 1990, the Maricopa County Bar Association Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award for 1992-93, and the ASU Law Alumni Distinguished Professor of 2001. In April, 2007, he was one of three recipients for the 12th Annual Last Lecturer Awards at ASU, in June 2007, he received the Arizona State Bar President’s Award for outstanding services to the Bar’s teaching mission, and he was a finalist for the 2008 Professor of the Year from the ASU Parents Association.

Before entering academia, Professor Berch worked on a variety of high profile criminal cases at the U.S. Department of Justice, was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York and also was engaged in private practice.

Questions?  Call 480-727-2410 or email Lexi.Killoren@asu.edu

LK 8/28/2012
Rebecca Berch

Rebecca White Berch was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court in 2002. She was elected the Vice Chief Justice in 2005, and became the Chief Justice July 1, 2009. Before her appointment to the Supreme Court, she served the state as Solicitor General of the State of Arizona, Special Counsel to the Attorney General, First Assistant Attorney General, and as a Court of Appeals Judge.

Following graduation from law school, Justice Berch practiced law in Phoenix. In 1986, she joined the faculty at Arizona State University College of Law. During her years at the law school, Justice Berch earned a Master’s degree in English and authored several law review articles and magazine articles on legal writing, two books, and two chapters for books. The textbook she co-authored, INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL METHOD AND PROCESS, is now in its fifth edition and is used in law schools throughout the nation.

Chief Justice Berch serves on the United States Conference of Chief Justices, the Board of Trustees of the National Conference of Bar Examiners, and in several other public service positions and speaks regularly on law-related topics to students, civic groups, and legal organizations.

NOMINATION FORM

Information about the nominator:
Name:
Title:
Phone:
Email:

Information about the student:
Name and ASU ID:
Major/area of study:
Email:
Phone:
Address/City/State/Zip:

Title of Thesis or Research Project:
Summary of project: (no more than 500 words):
Future career goals:
Leadership and/or service activities:

Please include at least one letter of endorsement from a faculty member.

Student signature:

RETURN NOMINATION PACKET TO:
Lexi Killoren
Barrett, The Honors College
Sage North Administration Building
Mail Code 1612

Mailing address:
PO Box 871612
Tempe, AZ 85287-1612

Questions? Call 480-727-2410 or email Lexi.Killoren@asu.edu