

Here are the details on the three oaths taken by attorneys in Arizona:

1. Oath of Admission to the Arizona Supreme Court

This is the oath an attorney takes when they are admitted to practice law in the State of Arizona. It is taken in front of the Arizona Supreme Court, and the text is as follows:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of Arizona; I will treat the courts of justice and judicial officers with respect; I will never seek to mislead a judge or jury by any artifice or false statement of fact or law; I will abstain from all offensive personality and advance no fact prejudicial to the honor or reputation of a party or witness, unless required by the justice of the cause with which I am charged; I will never reject, from any consideration personal to myself, the cause of the defenseless or oppressed, or delay any person's cause for lucre or malice. So help me God."

2. Oath to the State Bar of Arizona

This is the oath attorneys take when they become members of the State Bar of Arizona. The Bar may ask attorneys to confirm their commitment to ethical practices and service to the legal community. While the text may not always be available publicly, it generally reiterates loyalty to the profession, ethical practices, and serving justice.

The language often emphasizes adhering to the professional responsibility and the ethics code set forth by the Arizona Rules of Professional Conduct.

3. Loyalty Oath to the Court

Under Arizona law (A.R.S. § 38-231), certain public officials, including judges, must take a loyalty oath. Attorneys might be required to take similar oaths depending on their service within the court system or in roles of public trust. The loyalty oath typically looks like this:

"I, [name], do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of Arizona; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same, and defend them against all enemies, foreign and domestic; and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of the office of [office], according to the best of my ability, so help me God (or so I affirm)."

These oaths highlight the commitment to uphold the U.S. and Arizona Constitutions and demonstrate loyalty to the legal and judicial system.

The history of attorney and judicial oaths in **Arizona** specifically dates back to the state's transition from a territory to statehood in **1912**. The creation of the **Arizona Constitution** established the framework for public officials, including attorneys and judges, to take oaths of office. These oaths are designed to ensure adherence to the principles outlined in both the **U.S. Constitution** and the **Arizona Constitution**.

Key Historical Points:

1. Arizona Territory (Pre-1912)

Before Arizona became a state, it was part of the Arizona Territory (1863-1912). During this period, legal professionals still took oaths to uphold the laws of the territory and the U.S. Constitution. However, the structure of oaths was based on territorial laws, which were influenced by federal oversight.

2. Statehood and the 1912 Arizona Constitution

When Arizona became a state on **February 14, 1912**, it established a state constitution that reflected progressive-era values, emphasizing individual rights, government accountability, and legal integrity. The Constitution outlined the requirement for public officials to take oaths to support the U.S. Constitution and the Arizona Constitution, reflecting a commitment to both state and federal law.

3. Oath of Office for Judges

The **Arizona Constitution** (Article VI, Judiciary) requires judges to take an oath before assuming their duties. The judiciary's oath focuses on upholding the Constitution and administering justice impartially. Historically, this oath has reinforced the independence of the judiciary and their role as protectors of constitutional rights in Arizona.

The judicial oath also evolved as Arizona grew, adapting to various amendments and legal reforms to maintain impartiality and fairness in the courts. Arizona judges also take a **Loyalty Oath**, which was introduced during the Cold War era to emphasize loyalty to the U.S. and Arizona constitutions against both foreign and domestic threats.

4. Attorney Admission Oath

Arizona attorneys take an oath upon their admission to the bar, which has been in place since the state's early days. The oath serves as a pledge to ethical behavior, honesty in dealings with the courts, and the protection of justice. It also commits attorneys to represent clients with integrity and abide by the rules of professional conduct.

Over time, this oath has evolved to reflect changes in the legal profession, including increasing awareness of civil rights, the duty to represent disadvantaged groups, and the attorney's role in upholding justice within a democratic society.

5. Bar Association and Professional Responsibility

The **State Bar of Arizona**, established in **1933**, formalized the process of admission for attorneys and set professional standards. Attorneys admitted to the bar were required to take an oath affirming their ethical obligations to the courts, clients, and the public. The oath echoes similar sentiments found in the U.S. Constitution, such as the commitment to due process, fairness, and integrity.

As legal ethics became a more prominent focus, the oath of admission was refined to emphasize the avoidance of misleading the courts or acting in bad faith. It also incorporated provisions to defend the rights of the defenseless or oppressed.

6. Cold War and Loyalty Oaths (1950s-1960s)

During the Cold War, Arizona, like many other states, introduced **loyalty oaths** for public officials, including judges and attorneys. These oaths were a reaction to fears of communism and required individuals to swear that they would defend the state and the nation against foreign and domestic threats. Though controversial at the time, these oaths were meant to ensure the loyalty of public officials during a period of political tension.

Today, Arizona attorneys continue to take a loyalty oath to the state and its laws, though the Cold War context has largely faded.

Current Oaths in Arizona

Currently, Arizona requires attorneys and judges to take the following three key oaths:

1. **Oath of Admission to the Arizona Supreme Court:** The oath for attorneys sworn into the Arizona Supreme Court emphasizes support for the U.S. and Arizona Constitutions, respect for the courts, and ethical practice.
2. **Oath to the State Bar of Arizona:** Upon joining the bar, attorneys take an oath that reinforces their commitment to ethical standards, integrity in the legal profession, and respect for justice.
3. **Loyalty Oath:** Both judges and attorneys take a loyalty oath, as required by Arizona law (A.R.S. § 38-231). This oath affirms their allegiance to the U.S. and Arizona Constitutions and their duty to protect the nation and state from enemies, foreign and domestic.

These oaths underscore the significance of Arizona's legal framework, which requires adherence to constitutional principles and ethical practice, reflecting the state's rich legal history and its commitment to justice.