

Briefing Doc: Arizona Attorney Oaths

Main Themes:

- **Upholding the Constitution:** The oaths taken by Arizona attorneys consistently emphasize the importance of supporting both the U.S. and Arizona Constitutions. This underscores the foundational role of these documents in the state's legal system.
- **Ethical Conduct:** A strong emphasis is placed on ethical behavior and integrity. This includes avoiding misleading the courts, acting in good faith, and representing clients with dedication and honesty.
- **Service to Justice:** The oaths highlight the attorney's role in serving justice and protecting the rights of all, including the defenseless and oppressed.

Key Facts and Ideas:

- **Three Oaths:** Attorneys in Arizona take three oaths: (1) Oath of Admission to the Arizona Supreme Court, (2) Oath to the State Bar of Arizona, and (3) Loyalty Oath.
- **Historical Context:** The oaths reflect Arizona's legal history, evolving from territorial laws to the state's constitution in 1912. They have been shaped by events like the Cold War and growing emphasis on legal ethics.
- **Oath of Admission to the Arizona Supreme Court:** Focuses on supporting the U.S. and Arizona Constitutions.
 - Requires respect for courts and judicial officers.
 - Prohibits misleading judges or juries.
 - Demands ethical conduct, avoiding "offensive personality" and protecting the reputation of parties involved.
 - Commits attorneys to represent the defenseless and oppressed.
- **Quote:** "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."
- **Oath to the State Bar of Arizona:** Reaffirms loyalty to the legal profession and ethical practices.
 - Emphasizes adherence to the Arizona Rules of Professional Conduct.
- **Loyalty Oath:** Mandated by Arizona law (A.R.S. § 38-231).
 - Requires supporting and defending the U.S. and Arizona Constitutions.
 - Pledges allegiance and defense against all enemies, "foreign and domestic."
- **Quote:** "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..."

Evolution of Oaths:

- **Pre-Statehood:** Oaths existed in the Arizona Territory, reflecting federal influence.
- **Statehood (1912):** The Arizona Constitution established the framework for oaths, reflecting progressive values.
- **Cold War:** Loyalty oaths were introduced, emphasizing allegiance amidst political tensions.
- **Modern Era:** Oaths continue to evolve to reflect current legal and ethical standards.

Conclusion:

The oaths taken by Arizona attorneys are a testament to the state's commitment to constitutional principles, ethical conduct, and the pursuit of justice. They provide a framework for lawyers to act with integrity and uphold the highest standards of the legal profession.