

AZRSOL CONFERENCE - SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

# New Directions in Sexual Offense Policy

A Public Policy Conference by Arizonans for Rational Sex Offense Laws

## **Federal Judge to Speak at AZRSOL Conference: *New Directions in Sexual Offense Policy***

Senior U.S. District Court Judge Frederic Block will be a special guest speaker at a landmark one-day conference focusing on practices to prevent sexual offense violence while preserving the Constitutional rights of victims as well as offenders. Judge Block, who serves on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, will present insights from his groundbreaking new book, *A Second Chance: A Federal Judge Decides Who Deserves It*.

Called New Directions in Sexual Offense Policy and sponsored by Arizonans for Rational Sex Offense Laws (AZRSOL), the conference will be held September 27, 2024, at the Arizona State University Beus Center for Law and Society.

Judge Block's new book is a rare glimpse behind the

bench, recounting the cases of six incarcerated people who have been charged with heinous crimes but have nevertheless petitioned him for their release. He explains the criteria the First Step Act has spelled out for his consideration. He goes on to tell us what he did do in each case and why, as he weighed each compassionate release request, evaluating issues ranging from “the trial tax,” to sentencing disparities, to judicial incompetence.

He stresses the need for objective approaches to sensitive cases, including those involving sexual crimes—especially those involving children. He also details lessons from the Federal First Step Act and its potential state-level applications, particularly since states house about 90% of all those incarcerated.

The goal of the conference is to open a dialogue that examines evidence-based practices among those who work with people accused and convicted of sexual offenses. Attendees will include legislators, community leaders, law enforcement officials, attorneys, judges, probation officers, therapists and other professionals seeking insights into this rapidly evolving area.

Topics to be discussed will include rebutting myths and misinformation that lead to ineffective laws, legal challenges to registration and residency restriction laws, and the negative consequences of mass incarceration, as well as other topics related to developing policies based on the scientific evidence gleaned over the past few decades.

The conference will feature other prominent speakers who will present decades of research and data examining best practices in this challenging area. The line-up includes:

- \* Dr. Kristen M. Zgoba, an expert in sexual violence cases and sex offense registration challenges across the country.
- \* Professor Emily Horowitz, author of *From Rage to Reason: Why We Need Sex Crime Laws Based on Facts, Not Fear*.
- \* Paul Dubbeling, lead counsel for the National Association for Rational Sexual Offences Laws (NARSOL) legal challenge to North Carolina registration laws.
- \* Guy Hamilton-Smith, whose own experiences with the legal system inspired him to become a lawyer.

Arizonans for Rational Sex Offense Laws is a nonprofit 501(c)3 and the Arizona affiliate of the National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (NARSOL). The organization envisions effective, fact-based sexual offense laws that promote public safety; safeguard civil liberties; honor human dignity and offer holistic prevention, healing and restoration. More information is available on its website at [www.azrsol.org](http://www.azrsol.org).

