



**ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT PROPOSAL FORM**  
*(Revised November 2018)*

**DIRECTIONS:** *Use this form when proposing a new school, college, center, institute or other organizational unit. Internal administrative changes, including but not limited to the addition or elimination of departments, do not require approval by the Academic Affairs Council or the Board of Regents.*

**DATE OF REQUEST:** May 07, 2024

*Date of AAC Approval:*

**06-05-24**

**INSTITUTION:** University of Nevada, Reno

**NAME OF PROPOSED UNIT:** Center for Constitutional Law

*Date of Board Approval:*

**DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:** September 15, 2024

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**PART 1**

**A. Action requested**

Approve the development and creation of new Center for Constitutional Law at the University of Nevada, Reno (within the College of Liberal Arts)

**B. Brief description and purpose of proposed unit**

The study of the Constitution, rule of law, and its changing interpretations and impacts are embedded as a core part of the curriculum at the University of Nevada, Reno. Every student must pass a class on the Constitution, where students demonstrate familiarity with the essential elements of the constitutions of the US and Nevada, as well as the evolution of U.S. institutions and ideals. The College of Liberal Arts seeks to further strengthen this study and promote research into Constitutional Law, the law more broadly, and foundational social and political thought throughout its departments, schools, and centers. There is a high demand in academia for scholars who can teach and conduct research in these fields; the Center would provide needed workforce development to produce those scholars. A new Center for Constitutional Law, at UNR will enhance both these objectives and will also serve the entire state of Nevada through research, instruction, and community outreach.

### C. Outline plans for the success of the proposed unit

The Center for Constitutional Law's success would be measured through various metrics that reflect its impact, influence, and effectiveness in advancing its mission and goals for each phase.

#### 1. Educational Programs, including Programs for High School/Jr. High teachers:

- **Student Engagement:** Number of participants in the respective programs (undergraduate students at UNR and high school and middle school teachers participating in summer professional development program)
- **Curriculum:** Strength of the curriculum, including traditional classroom experiences, research projects, practical engagement and experiential learning, as measured by assessment exercises. Focus will be on Nevada History on Policies, Constitution, etc.
- **Alumni Success:** Tracking the impact (e.g., surveys, achievements, and/or career paths) of participants involved with the Center's programs.

#### 2. Research and Scholarship:

- **Publications:** The number of research papers, articles, books, and other scholarly publications produced by the Center's faculty and affiliated scholars.
- **Events, Collaborations:** Number of academic events aimed at fostering networking, collaboration, and furthering research projects. Impact also measured by number of collaborations, networks, new projects arising from involvement with the Center.
- **Grant Proposals:** Number of proposals supported by the Center submitted.
- **Annual Reports:** Summaries of the Center's activities, achievements, and impact.

#### 3. Public Outreach and influence

- **Public Events:** The number and attendance of public lectures, conferences, and seminars organized by the Center.
- **High School and Middle School** professional development for civics teachers (see #1 above). These workshops would be held up at the UNR-Lake Tahoe campus.

#### 4. Funding and Sustainability

- **Funding Sources:** The diversity of funding sources, including grants, donations, and endowments, and the ability to secure long-term financial sustainability.
- **Amount of funding:** Securing long-term financial sustainability and growth of the Center through donor and grant funds. Seventy percent of the Center budget should be funded externally.

#### 5. Academic and Legal Community Recognition

- **Awards and Honors:** Recognition and awards received by the center, faculty, or affiliated scholars for their contributions to relevant fields of study.

## **PART II**

### **A. Mission statement**

The Center Constitutional Law at UNR will nourish and foster familiarity with and reflection on law and its social, historical, and theoretical context, to provide students with the foundation to succeed as lifelong learners and future leaders in social and political life. Additionally, the Center will promote research into Constitutional Law and the law more broadly, and it will also serve the entire state of Nevada through research, instruction, and community outreach.

### **Activities:**

1. **Education and Training:** The Center will develop courses, programs, or resources (as appropriate) to enhance undergraduate and graduate understanding of the law and constitutions at UNR, and training of the next generation of scholars to teach and conduct research in these fields. This includes the **Summer @Lake Tahoe Civics Educator Workshop/Conference** for Nevada middle and high school social studies and American Government teachers to discuss and develop their class curricula and refine their constitutional knowledge. This program could ultimately feed into the Professional Development of high school teachers participating in Collegiate Academy Concurrent Enrollment teaching Political Science 101 (American Politics: Policy and Process) focused on the constitution, Civics with a focus on Nevada, policies, etc.
2. **Service:** The Center will aim to deliver programs to junior high and high school social science teachers to develop curricula that elevates civics literacy and informs social and political participation.
3. **Research production and dissemination:** The Center will support its affiliated faculty and students with events, resources, and opportunities for the purpose of producing research and scholarship on diverse aspects of law. Faculty affiliates may publish academic papers, books, and reports to contribute to the academic understanding of constitutional law.
4. **Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Research:** The Center will facilitate collaboration with in-house scholars and visiting experts from various fields including sitting and retired judges and experienced lawyers drawn from the extensive judicial network at UNR. Interdisciplinary collaboration will include criminal justice, economics, education, history, journalism, philosophy, political science, and sociology. This may involve public lectures, panel series, publications, and joint grant applications. The Center would also work in collaboration with the **College of Education and Human Development** and the **History PackTeach** and **Political Science PackTeach** programs.

### **B. Goals and objectives**

#### **1. Teaching**

- **Student Engagement:** Number of participants in the respective programs. (undergraduate students at UNR and high school and middle school teachers participating in summer professional development program)

- **Curriculum:** Strength of the curriculum, including traditional classroom experiences, research projects, practical engagement and experiential learning, as measured by assessment exercises.
- **Alumni Success:** Tracking the impact (e.g., surveys, achievements, and/or career paths) of participants involved with the Center's programs.

## 2. Research

- **Publications:** The number of research papers, articles, books, and other scholarly publications produced by the Center's faculty and affiliated scholars.
- **Events, Collaborations:** Number of academic events aimed at fostering networking, collaboration, and furthering research projects. Impact also measured by number of collaborations, networks, new projects arising from involvement with the Center.
- **Grant Proposals:** Number of proposals supported by the Center submitted.
- **Annual Reports:** Summaries of the Center's activities, achievements, and impact

## 3. Service

- **Public Events:** The number and attendance of public lectures, conferences, and seminars organized by the Center.

## C. Major participants or collaborators

### 1. Internal to campus

Constitutional Law and Nevada Law is a topic with interested faculty members in several departments. Faculty from the from the following University of Nevada, Reno unites have expressed interest:

- Department of Political Science
- Department of Criminal Justice
- Department of Philosophy
- History Department
- Core Humanities Program
- Grant Sawyer Center and School for Social Research and Justice Studies
- Justice Management Degree program

Individuals from these units have been involved in the creation of the mission and vision statements for the Center.

### 2. External to campus

To succeed, the Center must also be closely integrated into the community with close community partners. An Advisory Board would be created and members would be local and regional legal experts in addition to one to two community members. A number of external community members have been targeted to serving on the board. Additionally, a Board of Studies will be put together to focus on developing curriculum for the summer institute for K-12 teachers and would be formed of local high school social studies teachers (We the People).

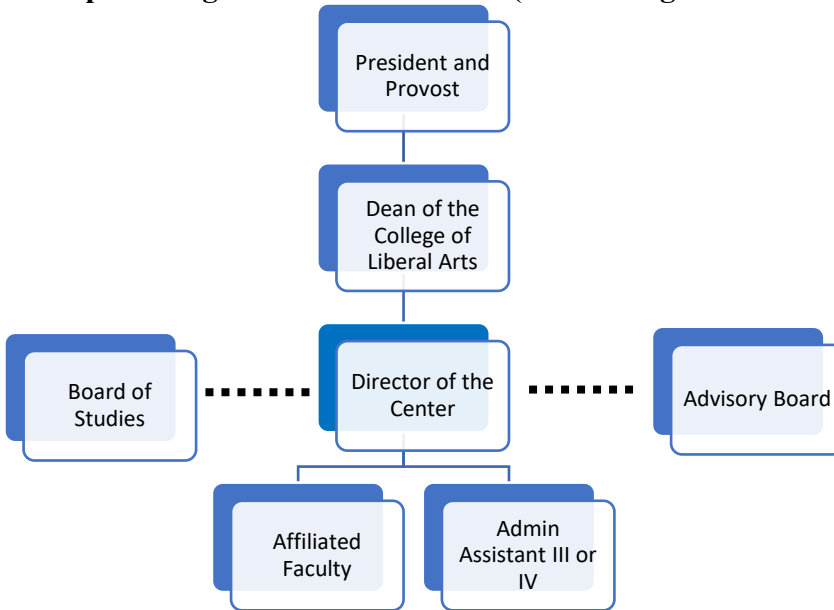
**D. Evidence of contact within and between affected academic units**

The faculty in the affiliated departments as listed in C. 1, worked on this proposal for about 12 months before coming to this agreement.

**E. Proposed physical location**

**Refurbishing of office suite** (two offices and a conference room) identified in the University section of the National Judicial College.

**F. Proposed organizational structure (include organizational structure within the campus)**



**G. Activities to be sponsored** (e.g. courses, seminars, research, and outreach) – indicate if courses or seminars will be offered through the proposed unit. Please specify if they will be offered for academic credit and applicable to a degree program. Give estimated enrollment. **Summer @Lake Tahoe Civics Educator Workshop/Conference** for Nevada middle and high school social studies and American Government teachers to discuss and develop their class curricula and refine their constitutional knowledge. It will not be offered for academic credit. We envision 15-30 participants.

**H. Resource Analysis** – source of funds necessary for the proposed change (enrollment-generated state funds, reallocation of existing funds, grants, other state funds)  
We would depend state funds for the one tenure track position in constitutional law that would serve as director, and state funds for two GTA positions to support two PhD students in Political Science or History.

**I. Projected Budget** – identify portions of costs which will require state resources, grants, gifts and/or contracts  
See attached justification.

*Please attach any supporting documentation (i.e. support letters from community, industry).*

## Center for Constitutional Law Budget Justification

### **PERSONNEL**

The **director** will oversee the internal operations of the center and will serve as the outward-facing person for the Center to external stakeholders and the broader community. As part of the external relations responsibility, the Director will have a central role in fundraising and advancement efforts, which includes identifying potential donors, writing grant proposals, and seeking financial support to sustain the Center's activities and programs. The director will be a state supported tenure track professor whose tenure home will be in Criminal Justice, History, Philosophy, or Political Science and will teach a reduced teaching load. The director will receive a 40% donor supported annual stipend per year for three years.

The **Associate Director** will be an existing faculty member and will work with the Board of Studies Committee to design educational resources or programs that align identified needs with what UNR can sustainably deliver (including, but not limited to College of Education and Human Development and the History PackTeach and Political Science PackTeach program). The associate director will receive a 10% in kind course buy out semester and 9.9% salary stipend.

**20-hour graduate students** will be supported in-kind in each year to assist in the Center's mission and will be responsible for assisting with data collection, management, teaching.

Summer affiliate **adjunct faculty** salaries for teaching Summer @ Lake Tahoe Civics Educator Conference/Workshop supported with donor funds.

**Two tenure track lines** (one in Criminal Justice/philosophy and the other in Political Science) to teach the full range of courses needed for Constitutional Law to be supported properly.

**Administrative Assistant** (III or IV) to support program management, budgets, grants, and operations.

### **OTHER**

Additional funds requested are for the following:

**Initial operating seed funding** for teacher outreach, guest speakers and honorarium, funding for research collaboration for current faculty, and additional needs

**Refurbishing of office suite** for Director and administrative assistant. Two offices and a conference room were identified in the University section of the National Judicial College.