

# THE MARICOPAN

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## ACLU of Arizona Executive Director to Kick Off MCLI Honors Forum Lecture Series

Friday, September 8, 2017



On Sept. 13, Alessandra Soler, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona, will deliver the first lecture in the Maricopa Center for Learning and Instruction (MCLI) Honors Forum Lecture Series, hosted by Maricopa Community Colleges. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. in Bulpitt Auditorium at Phoenix College.

Soler's lecture "Protecting and Advancing Civil Liberties in the 21st Century" will cover the ACLU's history, current threats to civil liberties and their impact on democracy, the ACLU of Arizona's work in four key areas – immigrants' rights, education equity, LGBTQ equality, and criminal justice reform – and how to get involved.

"For nearly 60 years, the ACLU of Arizona has worked to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties everyone in this country is guaranteed by the Constitution," Soler said. "But the promise of the Bill of Rights is constantly under threat and currently faces extraordinary challenges. I'm excited to share the ACLU of Arizona's work and vision with the Maricopa Community Colleges community."

Soler came to the ACLU of Arizona as Executive Director in February 2006. She is the first Latina to head the organization. Soler has over 18 years of ACLU experience, including work at offices in Florida and Louisiana. Before joining the ACLU, she worked as a reporter for publications in Miami and Virginia.

The Honors Forum Lecture brings together distinguished local and national speakers for lectures

themed “Democracy in Action.” Future speakers include Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, and Associate Professor and Author Django Paris. The series concludes with Carmen Perez, Executive Director of The Gathering for Justice.

The Honors Forum Lecture Series is open to the public, with free admission and unassigned seating. Lectures are scheduled from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Phoenix College or South Mountain Community College.