

Despite claim, Arizona state Rep. Mark Finchem does not have a fellowship at UA's law school



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When Arizona state Rep. Mark Finchem authored a paper about why he believed the Legislature had the authority to overturn the results of the presidential election, he described himself as a "legislative fellow in residence" at the University of Arizona's College of Law.

One problem: Finchem, an Oro Valley Republican, does not now and has never held a fellowship at the law school.

The paper was posted on the website of the Pathway Research and Education Corporation, a nonprofit Finchem chairs. He also has recently encouraged supporters to donate to that organization, telling backers [in a recent interview with Prescott E-News](#) that he was raising funds "for a potential legal defense" and was "examining litigation" against Democratic lawmakers who had called for the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate him.

Finchem is currently a student in the master of legal studies program at the James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona, a spokeswoman said.

But he is not a "legislative fellow in residence at the James E. Rogers School of Law."

"I can confirm that Rep. Finchem does not now hold and has not held a fellowship at the College of Law. He is a Master of Legal Studies student," said Tracy Mueller, a spokeswoman for the school.

The lawmaker does have a fellowship at the University of Arizona's Center for the Philosophy of Freedom, which is not part of the law school, the director of that center said.

The Republic first asked Finchem about his work at the school on Feb. 5 as part of [an article about the Trump campaign paying a company he controls more than \\$6,000.](#)

Finchem did not address questions about his fellowship at the time and did not respond to a request for clarification on Thursday.

The lawmaker is perhaps the most outspoken legislator among several who have called for overturning the results of the presidential election.

"Arizona started with one man: State Representative Mark Finchem," Ali Alexander, the organizer of the Stop the Steal rally in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 6, said in a video posted by the group Church Militant several days later.

The legislator even traveled to Washington, D.C. to speak at a rally that day against certifying the results of the presidential election. He has denied taking part in the riot at the U.S. Capitol but initially [refused a request by The Republic for public records from his travels under the state's government transparency law.](#)

In the legal paper, Finchem argued that the Legislature has the authority to call itself into session and choose the presidential electors.

"It is the plenary authority and obligation of the Legislature to do so," he wrote. "Since this authority and obligation is placed solely upon the Legislature by the highest law of the land, the Legislatures are not impeded by state statutes in fulfilling this duty."

Finchem has since faced an attempted recall campaign and calls for his resignation.

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