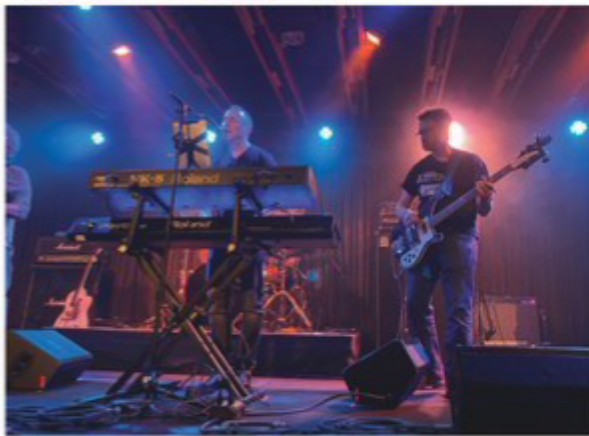


Photos, clockwise from top left: Desert Rangers, Grant Woods, Retro-Active, Jane Joyce, Knobs, Sean Hood of Retro-Active (photos by Carol Rose)

Law Rocks, Money Talks

BY CAROL ROSE



When legal professionals close their laptops and grab their guitars, law truly rocks. The inaugural Law Rocks Phoenix kicked off on January 9 at the Crescent Ballroom. Five groups of legal professionals competed in a battle-of-the-bands fundraiser to benefit Alice Cooper's Solid Rock Teen Center (www.alicecooper-solidrock.com/).

Law Rocks is a global nonprofit that's been rocking it from Tokyo and Paris to New York and Los Angeles for 10 years. Its primary mission is to help fund music education for underprivileged youth through rock and roll—legal style.

Devon Engel, vice president and general counsel for General Dynamics by day and killer bass player by night, organized Phoenix's first Law Rocks after he and his band competed in Washington, D.C., for three years.


"It was so much fun, and I was so impressed with the organization that I volunteered to bring it to Phoenix."

Competing in the event were Engel's band Retro-Active, along with Desert Rangers, Knobs, Crisis and singer Jane Joyce. All told, they raised close to \$30,000, with the net proceeds of \$10,000 going to Solid Rock. Engel expects the event to grow every year.

"I've already had two bands reach out that want to play next year," says Engel.

One of the most gratifying parts of organizing Law Rocks, he says, was the "unbelievable support that we got from the local music community. Look at the judges we got. It was just outrageous."

Judges included Alice Cooper drummer and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductee Neal Smith, along with David Ellefson, co-founder of Megadeth; and Lawrence Zubia, the Pistoleros lead singer as well as a lawyer and son of Donald Roeser (OK, Buck Dharma), a founding member of Blue Öyster Cult. The event was hosted by KSLX DJ Mark Devine and emceed by former Attorney General—and current musician—Grant Woods.

In case you've got rock and roll fantasies, next year's event is tentatively set for January 21, 2021, again at Crescent Ballroom. Now go get the band together. More information at lawrocks.org/phx. 

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