

LL.M. Program in Agricultural & Food Law

University of Arkansas School of Law
FINAL 2023 Spring Curriculum

Synchronous Courses



Federal Regulation of Food Labeling & Safety

Susan Schneider with Amy White (Walmart)

2 credits

LAWW 704V

Thursday, 10:00 - 11:40 A.M. CST

January 19 - April 27

Full-semester synchronous course



This course explores the federal laws governing the labeling of food and food safety by considering current topics. The course views these laws through the lens of consumer interest and from the perspective of industry. Students will research an area of food labeling/safety that they select and present to the class in lieu of a final exam. Food Law & Policy is a prerequisite for enrollment.

Agricultural Perspectives

Christopher Kelley

2 credits (required for the LL.M. degree)

LAWW 7312

Tuesday, 10:00 - 11:40 A.M. CST

January 17 - April 25

Full-semester synchronous course



Agricultural Perspectives, as the name implies, examines a wide range of social and economic issues, considering their origin and how history is reflected today. The course includes a series of documentaries and provocative readings on food and agricultural subjects, historic and current.



Federal Nutrition Law & Policy

Margaret Sova McCabe

1 credit

LAWW 7852

Wednesday 10:00 - 11:40 A.M. CST

Mar. 8 - April 26

Half-semester synchronous course

This course offers an introduction to federal nutrition policy, including the development of the federal nutrition standards, the framework for the food assistance programs, the federal school lunch program, and the government's efforts to encourage healthy eating.

The Future of Food

Susan Schneider

(1 credit)

LAWW 7081

Friday, 10:00 - 11:40 A.M. CST

January 20 - March 3

Half-Semester synchronous course

This new “selected topics” course explores a series of questions regarding the future of our food system, discussing what we might anticipate a decade from now. Each week raises a new question, exploring science, culture, and climate, and then discussing the appropriate role of government to encourage, discourage, or regulate change. It explores new technologies and innovations, examining the regulation of these new products and processes. Underlying all of the discussion will be the looming threat of the impact of climate change.

Introduction to Agricultural Taxation

Poppy Davis

1 credit

LAWW 7111

Friday, 1:00 - 2:40 P.M. CST

January 27 - March 10

Half-semester synchronous course with remote delivery

This course provides an introduction and a broad-based overview of federal income tax law as applied to agricultural operations. Prior experience with tax law is not required.



Rule of Law

Christopher Kelley

2 credits

LAWW 5692

Wednesday 8:00 – 9:40 A.M. CST

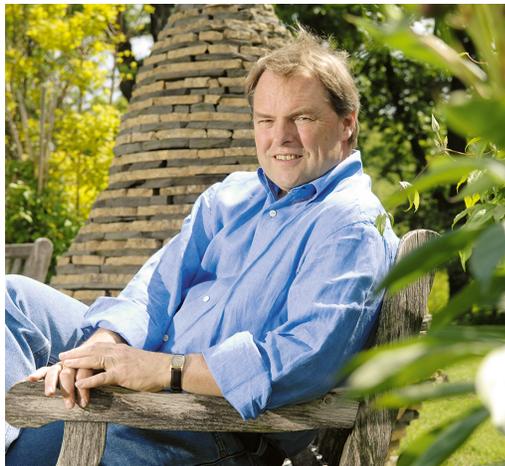
January 18 – April 26

This is a unique JD class that Professor Kelley teaches, incorporating students from Ukraine and other Eastern European countries. He welcomes LL.M. students who can take the course for LL.M. credit.

This course's purpose is to help you answer this question: What does the rule of law mean to you? Its goal is to encourage you to think about this question throughout your career. This course will examine four broad topics: what is the rule of law and why does it matter; the role of the rule of law in economic development; the role of the rule of law in post-conflict and other transitional societies; and the causes, consequences, and cures of corruption. You will be asked to participate in class discussion and to write an essay during the exam period. Your essay may be an essay explaining what the rule of law means to you.

Special Condensed Courses

These courses are taught over several days, offering an opportunity to immerse in the study of one particular subject. Other LL.M. classes will be cancelled during the special condensed course instruction.



Legal Issues in Land Tenure and Sustainability

Neil Hamilton

1 credit

LAWW 708V

Synchronous condensed course, Fayetteville, AR

Remote delivery

April 4-6, 2023, 10:00 to 11:40 CST (w/conflicting LL.M. classes rescheduled to allow for the condensed course)

April 11-13, 2023, 1:00 to 3:30 CST

This course, taught remotely by renowned professor Neil Hamilton (author of [The Land Remains: A Midwestern Perspective on Our Past and Future](#)), focuses on the role landownership and use plays in American agriculture. It

examines the history of federal land policy in the U.S. such as the Homestead Act and other land grants in forming our land ownership structure and examines the current reality of land tenure in the U.S. looking at who owns farmland.

Food Safety Litigation

Bill Marler and Denis Stearns

1 credit

LAWW 727V

March 27 – 30, 2023

2:00 - 3:40 P.M. CST

Four 100-minute synchronous sessions with remote delivery



This course, taught remotely by two of the most widely respected food safety advocates and litigators in the U.S., examines food borne illness policy and litigation with an initial introduction to food product liability followed by the study of actual cases brought against food manufacturers and a discussion of current issues in food safety regulation.

The book, *POISONED: THE TRUE STORY OF THE DEADLY E. COLI OUTBREAK THAT CHANGED THE WAY AMERICANS EAT* (2013) is an interesting reading that is assigned before the course begins. Copies are available for students enrolled. Netflix will be releasing a series based on the book in early 2023.

Asynchronous Courses

We have 3 course offerings that do not require scheduled meetings. These courses allow students to proceed through the course on their own, with weekly assigned readings and assessments, communicating with the professor and other students online. As an *optional* add-on, professors may schedule a few synchronous virtual sessions to answer questions and discuss issues.



Agricultural Labor Law

Amy Lowenthal

1 credit

LAWW 778V

7 weeks (Jan. 17 – Mar. 3)

Asynchronous course first-half of the semester

Amy Lowenthal

This course is a study of the legal, social, and economic issues that arise from the extensive use of migrant labor in U.S. agricultural operations. Topics include agricultural exemptions from labor laws, the Migrant & Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, and agriculture's reliance on undocumented alien workers. Professor Lowenthal is an LL.M. alumna and serves as Assistant Counsel to the Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Farmed Animal Welfare

Lauren Manning

1 credit

LAWW 726V

7 weeks (Mar. 6 – Apr. 28)

Asynchronous course second-half of the semester

This course, taught by Adjunct Professor and LL.M. alumna Lauren Manning, presents an examination of the legal and policy issues involved in determining welfare standards for animals raised for food. In addition to exploring the lack of federal animal welfare standards and introducing humane slaughter laws, state law standards and “ag gag” laws are also discussed. Private certifications are addressed as well. Policy discussions welcome all views. Professor Manning is a farmer and serves as Senior Associate with Croatan Institute.





Farm Succession Planning

Kelly Nuckolls

1 credit

LAWW 7501

March 6 – April 28

Asynchronous course, second-half of the semester

This course introduces farm estate and succession planning. It explores the special aspects of farm succession planning and

the tools available to farm families and to beginning farmers who seek to work with a retiring farmer. It is taught by Assistant Professor Kelly Nuckolls, Director of the Food and Agriculture Impact Project and an LL.M. alumna.

Independently Conducted Courses with Faculty Support and Experiential Learning Opportunities

Advanced Legal Research & Writing

Lauren Manning

1 credit

LAWW 770V

This required course includes research in a specialized area of agricultural or food law and development of a paper that demonstrates rigorous legal analysis and quality legal writing. A variety of different article formats are available, from practice-oriented to scholarly. Lauren Manning monitors student progress and provides assistance as needed, including the opportunity to workshop works-in-progress. Grading for this course is reserved so students do not need to complete their article during one-semester.

Independent Research in Agricultural & Food Law

Supervised by any regular LL.M. Professor

1-2 credits

LAWW 771V

This course allows for independent research in agricultural and food law conducted under the supervision of a faculty member. It can involve either an area of law not covered by our curriculum or the opportunity for guided study through a course that has been developed but is not offered in a particular semester.

Practicum in Advocacy

1-3 credits

LAWW 764V

This course provides an experiential learning opportunity involving practice, regulatory, or policy work in agricultural or food law under the supervision of an experienced professional and a member of the

faculty of the LL.M Program. Students will generally be required to have completed 6 or more hours of regular LL.M. course work prior to doing a Practicum.

As a limited opportunity for LL.M. students, the USDA Office of General Counsel will interview candidates for a special practicum placement that can be performed remotely. This offering is for 3 credits, with 12 hours of work required each week. Only one or two candidates will be selected. Contact Professor Schneider if interested.

The National Farmers Union may also have a practicum position for a student who can work with them on antitrust issues and Department of Justice enforcement (1 or 2 credits).

Important dates for Spring Semester 2023

Classes begin: January 17, 2023
Spring Break: March 20 - 24, 2023
Final day of class: April 28, 2023
Final exam period: May 1 - May 12