

# LL.M. Program in Agricultural & Food Law

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## University of Arkansas School of Law 2024 Fall Curriculum

### **The Law of Food & Agriculture**

Neil Hamilton

1 credit condensed course

LAWW 7511

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Central Time

Six sessions: August 20 – September 24, 2024

Synchronous course taught remotely



This special condensed course taught by visiting professor Neil Hamilton helps to kick off our semester. It's taught in 6 remote sessions during the first 6 weeks of the semester. Recognized internationally for his insightful analysis of food and farms, Professor Hamilton is an Emeritus Professor of Law at Drake University Law School and is the author of the recent books, *THE LAND REMAINS: A MIDWESTERN PERSPECTIVE ON OUR PAST AND FUTURE* (2022) and *THE RIVER KNOWS: HOW WATER AND LAND WILL SHAPE OUR FUTURE* (2023). This course provides an overview of the complex legal and policy issues within our food system, including a discussion of structural changes in agriculture, sustainability, and trends in consumer interest.



### **Food, Farming & Sustainability (Survey of Agricultural Law)**

Susan Schneider

2 credit full-semester course

LAWW 7412

Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Central Time

Synchronous course

This course provides a survey of the complex legal topics that make up the body of agricultural law with a critical analysis of how and why agriculture is treated differently than other industries. The course covers the substantive areas of agricultural law with a focus on current issues of significance. It is taught by LL.M. Program Director and W.H. Enfield Professor of Law Susan Schneider.

### **Food Law & Policy** (required for LL.M.)

Susan Schneider

2 credit full-semester course

LAWW 7862

Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Central Time

Synchronous course

This course, taught by Susan Schneider provides a holistic look at our food system. It explores the network of laws that frame that system and impact us all. An overview of regulation by both the Food & Drug Administration and the USDA is provided, using current events and emerging issues to address wide ranging law and policy considerations.

### **Agriculture & the Environment** (required for LL.M.)

Christopher Kelley

2 credit full-semester course

LAWW 7962

Thursday, 10:30 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. Central Time

Synchronous course



One of Professor Kelley's signature LL.M. courses, Agriculture and the Environment examines the impact that agricultural production has on the environment. This policy-oriented course examines the tensions between the need to produce food and fiber efficiently and the concern for sustainability and the protection of our natural resources. A global perspective is included. Professor Kelley is a tenured professor at the University of Arkansas School of Law and a Fulbright Scholar with international connections with Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and the surrounding regions.

### **Effective Legal Writing**

Professor Christopher Kelley

1 credit full-semester, Pass/Fail

LAWW 7231

Thursday, 9:00 -9:50 a.m. Central Time

Synchronous course

Professor Kelley explores effective legal writing strategies, exposes problems with legalese, and helps students to improve their writing skills. Using a format that he has used to offer instruction to hundreds of lawyers and law students worldwide, students discuss examples in class and explore bad habits to avoid. The course does not involve writing exercises and is offered for ungraded credit.

### **The Right to Food**

Uche Ewelukwa Ofodile

2 credit full semester course; online

LAWW 714V

Hybrid (Asynchronous with 2 online meetings)

Wednesdays at 3:00 P.M. Central Time



Taught by Professor Uche Ewelukwa Ofodile, E.J. Ball

Professor of Law, this course provides an overview of the historical development of the right to food; evaluates the rights, obligations and responsibilities of rights-holders and duty-bearers of the right to food; and examines the legal and non-legal mechanisms that are increasingly used to adjudicate the right to food.

### **Business, Human Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility in the Food/Ag Sector**

Uche Ewelukwa Ofodile

2 credit full semester course; online

LAWW 794V

Hybrid (Asynchronous with 2 online meetings)

Wednesdays at 3:00 P.M. Central Time

Professor Ewelukwa Ofodile explores the business-human rights nexus within the food and agricultural sector using relevant case studies. The course introduces students to the linkages between business and human rights from a variety of legal, regulatory, and policy perspectives.

### **Farmed Animal Welfare**

Lauren Manning

1 credit half-semester course; first seven weeks

LAWW 726V

Wednesday, 1:00 – 1:50 p.m. Central Time

Synchronous course taught remotely



This course, taught remotely by Professor 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 discussed. Private certifications are also addressed. Policy discussions welcome all range of views. Professor Manning’s career includes non-profit advocacy, journalism, teaching, and farming.



### **Agricultural Water Law**

Lauren Bernadett

2 credit full semester course; online only

LAWW 713V

Hybrid (Asynchronous with 3 online meetings)

Thursdays 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Central Time

This course, taught by California water law attorney and professor Lauren Bernadett provides a study of the basic legal principles applicable to water rights through a consideration of water rights for agricultural use. This course is primarily an online, asynchronous course, but includes three or four synchronous meetings on Thursday afternoons to allow class discussion and Q&A with the professor. These meetings will be remote via Zoom. Professor Bernadett brings years of rich practice experience to her teaching.



### **Legal Issues in Land Tenure and Sustainability**

Neil Hamilton

1 credit condensed course

LAWW 7581

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Central Time

Six sessions: Oct. 1, 15, 22, 29, and Nov. 12 and 19

Synchronous course taught remotely

This course, taught remotely by Professor Neil Hamilton 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.

## Independently Conducted Courses with Faculty Support

### **Advanced Legal Research & Writing** (required for LL.M.)

Lauren Manning

1 credit full semester course

LAWW 770V

This required course includes research in a specialized area of agricultural or food law and the 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. Professor Lauren Manning monitors student progress and provides assistance as needed, including the opportunity to workshop works-in-progress. While there is no prerequisite for this course, LL.M. candidates typically take it during their second full semester or after several semesters of part-time work.

### **Independent Research in Agricultural & Food Law**

Susan Schneider

1-2 credit full semester course

LAWW 771V

This course provides an opportunity for independent research in agricultural and food law conducted under the supervision of a faculty member. This can involve the drafting of a research article or undertaking a project outside of the scope of the classes offered. Professor Schneider approves the initial proposal and works with the student to assign a faculty advisor.



### **Practicum in Advocacy** (candidates must generally have completed at least one semester to participate)

Kelly Nuckolls

1-4 credit full semester course

LAWW 764V

This course provides experiential learning opportunities involving practice, regulatory, or policy work in agricultural or food law under the supervision of an experienced professional and Professor Kelly Nuckolls. The practicum includes the opportunity to apply to work with the USDA Office of General Counsel under its internship program. Professor Nuckolls is uniquely qualified to provide mentorship and supervision of our Practicum students. Her prior work in D.C. as Policy Analyst

for the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition helped her develop connections with advocacy groups across the country. Professor Nuckolls now directs the Food and Agriculture Impact Project of the LL.M. Program.

### **Important dates for Fall Semester 2024**

Semester begins: August 19

Holidays: September 2 (Labor Day); October 14-15 (Fall Break); November 27-29 (Thanksgiving)

Final exam period: December 2-13