

LL.M. Program in Agricultural and Food Law

University of Arkansas School of Law
LL.M. 2024 Spring Courses

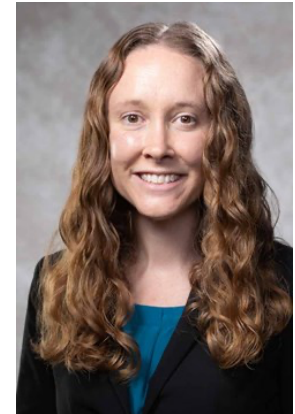
Synchronous Courses

Selected Issues in Agricultural and Food Law: Competition and Antitrust



Kelly Nuckolls and Christopher Kelley
1 credit, LAWW 708V
Thursday, 1:00 – 2:40 p.m. CST
Half-semester synchronous course (2nd half)
March 7 – April 25

This new course explores issues of concentration, competition, and federal antitrust law in the food and agricultural sector. The course focuses on the Packers & Stockyards Act and also introduces federal antitrust laws as applied to the food and agricultural industries.



Legal Issues: Indigenous Food & Agriculture

Janie Hipp, President/CEO [Native Agriculture Financial Services](#)
1 credit, LAWW 762V
Tuesday, 10:00 – 11:40 a.m. CST
Half-semester synchronous course, January 16 – March 5

We are delighted to welcome Janie Hipp, former USDA General Counsel, back to our faculty. This course examines the complex interaction of tribal law, treaties, and federal agricultural and food laws, exploring tribal sovereignty and ongoing efforts to rebuild tribal food systems.



Agricultural Cooperatives and Local Food Systems



Doug O'Brien, President/CEO, [National Cooperative Business Association](#)
[CLUSA International](#)
1 credit
LAWW 7071
April 15-17th (times TBD)

We are delighted to welcome Doug O'Brien, a national leader in ag policy and cooperative business models, to our faculty. This course introduces the legal structure of a cooperative and provides an examination of the recent use of the cooperative model in encouraging local and regional food systems. Professor O'Brien would like to offer this class in person, coming to campus to for a condensed course (12 hours of class time over 2 ½ days). We should have a date set within the next week.

Federal Regulation of Food Labeling & Safety



Susan Schneider with Amy White (Walmart)
Pre-requisite: Food Law & Policy
2 credits, LAWW 704V
Wednesday, 10:00 – 11:40 a.m. CST
Full-semester synchronous course
January 17 - April 24



This course explores specific areas of federal law 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.**

Federal Nutrition Law & Policy

Susan Schneider
1 credit, LAWW 785V
Friday 10:00 - 11:40 a.m. CST
Half-semester synchronous course, 2nd half of the semester, March 8 – Apr. 26

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 course will include guest lectures from leaders in nutrition policy.

Agricultural Perspectives

Christopher Kelley
2 credits (**required for the LL.M. degree**)
LAWW 7312
Thursday, 10:00 - 11:40 A.M. CST
January 18 - 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.

Synchronous, Remote Delivery

We have two synchronous classes taught by nationally recognized instructors who teach remotely. These classes are broadcast into the LL.M. Room, and students can attend in the classroom or remotely.



Legal Issues in Land Tenure and Sustainability

Neil Hamilton

1 credit

LAWW 708V

Remote delivery 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. CST

March 25, 26, 27

April 1, 2, 3

This course, taught remotely by renowned 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.

Food Safety Litigation

Bill Marler and Denis Stearns

1 credit

LAWW 727V

Remote delivery 1:00 – 4:00 P.M. CST

March 12, 13, 14, 15



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 released a series based on the book, *Poisoned: The Dirty Truth About Our Food*.

Asynchronous Courses

We have 2 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.

Intellectual Property in Food & Agricultural Products

Uche Ewelukwa

2 credits

LAWW 765V

Full semester asynchronous course

January 16 – April 26



This course introduces Copyright Law, Trademarks Law and Patent Law as applied to agricultural and food products. It will include issues from Trademark Law, such as Certification Marks, Geographical Indicators, Trade Dress, copyright laws on food recipes as well as copyright laws on food labeling.



Agricultural Labor Law

Amy Lowenthal

1 credit

LAWW 778V

7 weeks (January 16 – March 1)

Half-semester asynchronous course,
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.

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.

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.