

LL.M. Program in Agricultural and Food Law

University of Arkansas School of Law LL.M. 2026 Spring Courses

Synchronous Courses

These classes have regular meetings scheduled, with video participation by our distance students and recordings available when class is missed.

Agricultural Perspectives

Christopher Kelley

Required for the LL.M. degree

2 credits, LAWW 73012

Friday, 10:00 - 11:40 A.M. Central Time

Full semester, January 12 - April 24, 2026

Synchronous course taught on-campus

Agricultural Perspectives 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 Regulation of Food Labeling & Safety

Susan Schneider

Pre-requisite: Food Law & Policy

2 credits, LAWW 7040V

Tuesday, 10:00 – 11:40 a.m. Central Time

Full-semester, January 12 - April 24, 2026

Synchronous course taught on-campus

This course explores areas of federal food labeling and safety law in the context of current issues. New front of pack labeling initiatives, commercial speech challenges, the regulatory dilemma of ultra-processed foods, PFAS in food and packaging, economic adulteration, and salmonella in poultry production are just a few of the topics covered. **Food Law & Policy is a prerequisite for enrollment.**

Agricultural Administrative Law: Where Law Meets Policy

David Grahn

1 credit, LAWW 7080V

Wednesday, 10:00-11:40 Central Time

Half-semester, 1st half of the semester

January 12-March 3, 2026

Synchronous course taught remotely

This new course builds on the professor's decades of experience practicing administrative law at the highest levels of the federal government. It will be



taught remotely and explore some of the basics of administrative law in the context of Washington D.C. policymaking and regulation. In addition to discussing the role of federal regulatory agencies including USDA, the course will discuss the roles of other important players: the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Justice, the White House, and the Courts. The course will examine recent and ongoing changes to administrative law and practice.

Legal Issues: Indigenous Food & Agriculture

Colby Duren

1 credit, LAWW 7620V

Thursday, 10:00 – 11:40 a.m. Central Time

Half-semester, 1st half of the semester

January 12–March 3, 2026

Synchronous course taught remotely



Colby Duren, with over 18 years of experience in tribal law and policy, teaches this course examining the complex interaction of tribal law, treaties, and federal agricultural and food laws. The course explores tribal sovereignty and ongoing efforts to rebuild tribal food systems.



Selected Issues in Agricultural and Food Law: Competition and Antitrust

Kelly Nuckolls

1 credit, LAWW 7080V

Wednesday, 10:00 – 11:40 a.m. Central Time

Half-semester, 2nd half of the semester

March 4 – April 24, 2026

Synchronous course taught on-campus

This course explores critical issues of concentration and competition in the food and agriculture sector in the context of federal antitrust law. Current issues are discussed including private and DOJ litigation and regulatory efforts by the USDA to protect farmers and increase competition within agricultural markets. The course covers the Packers & Stockyards Act, a powerful agricultural statute that is not traditionally discussed in antitrust law classes.

Federal Nutrition Law & Policy

Susan Schneider

1 credit, LAWW 7850V

Thursday 10:00 - 11:40 a.m. Central Time

Half-semester, 2nd half of the semester

March 4 – April 24, 2026

Synchronous course taught on-campus

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.

Asynchronous Courses

These are online courses with weekly assigned readings and assessments. The professors schedule 2-3 meetings with students throughout the semester to allow to answer questions and discuss issues.

Intellectual Property in Food & Agricultural Products

Uche Ewelukwa Ofodile

2 credits, LAWW 7650V

Full semester, January 12 – April 24, 2026

Asynchronous course with opportunities to meet with the professor, Thursdays at 3:00 P.M. Central

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. This course will have up to three synchronous sessions with the professor to address current issues, questions, and discussion. They will be held on Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.



Condensed Courses

These courses are taught by nationally recognized agricultural and food law leaders who condense 12 hours of instruction into 3-4 days, offering 1-credit of specialized education.

Food Safety Litigation

Bill Marler and Denis Stearns

1 credit, LAWW 7270V

February 10-13, 2026

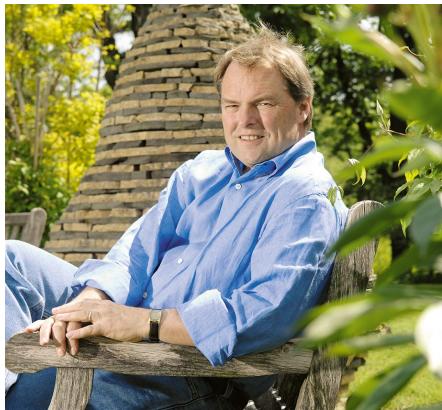
Tuesday – Friday, 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.,

Central Time

Synchronous course taught remotely



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.



Legal Issues in Land Tenure and Sustainability

Neil Hamilton

1 credit, LAWW 75801

Monday and Tuesday, March 30 and 31, 2026 and
Monday, April 6

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 - 3:00 P.M. Central Time
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. by looking at who owns farmland.

Agricultural Cooperatives Law

Doug O'Brien and Chynique Ross

1 credit, LAWW 70701

March 16-18, 2026

9:00 – 12:00 A.M.; 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. Monday
and Tuesday

9:00 – 12:00 Wednesday, Central Time

Synchronous class taught remotely



Doug O'Brien, President/CEO, National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International teaches this course with agricultural cooperatives practicing attorney Chynique Ross. 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.

Independently Conducted Courses with Faculty Support and Experiential Learning Opportunities

Advanced Legal Research & Writing

Professors Nuckolls, Schneider and Kelley

Required for the LL.M. degree

1 credit, LAWW 7700V

Friday, 12:00 - 12:50 P.M. Central Time (optional attendance)

1st half of the semester, January 12 - March 3, 2026

Synchronous course taught on-campus with individual sessions

This required course includes research in a specialized area of agricultural or food law and development of an article that demonstrates rigorous legal analysis and quality legal writing. A variety of different article formats are available, from practice-oriented to scholarly. The professors monitor student progress and help as needed, including the opportunity to workshop works-in-progress. There is an optional class meeting scheduled for Fridays, the first half of the semester, from 12:00-12:50 to discuss topic selection, writing guidelines, and other suggestions to assist students in completing their articles.

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 7710V

Full semester, January 12 - April 24, 2026

Individual conferences

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. Permission to develop an independent study course is required.

Practicum in Advocacy

Supervised by Attorney mentor at placement and Professor Nuckolls

1-3 credits, LAWW 7640V

Full semester, January 12 - April 24, 2026

Work can be performed remotely or on-location depending on placement and duties

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. Interested students should consult with Professor Nuckolls to learn more.

Special Arkansas JD Classes that may be of interest (available to count toward LL.M. degree)

Rule of Law (synchronous JD course)

Christopher Kelley

2 credits, LAWW 56902

January 12 - April 24, 2026

Wednesday, 8:00 - 9:40 A.M. Central Time

Full-semester synchronous course including students in Eastern Europe; LL.M. students will participate remotely due to space limitations

Inspired by the World Justice Project and dedicated to the children of Ukraine, this transnational course examines four themes in the context of world events:

- What is the rule of law and why does it matter?
- The role of rule of law in economic development;
- The role of rule of law in post-conflict and other transnational societies, and
- Corruption: its causes, consequences, and cures.

The course incorporates law, culture, human psychology, and other influences on behavior that foster or inhibit the rule of law.