

LL.M. Program in Agricultural & Food Law

University of Arkansas School of Law 2021 Fall Curriculum

We are excited to return to our LL.M. classroom in August 2021 with a full slate of in-person courses available to students on-campus as well as those participating remotely by video conference. All times listed are Central time zone.

An Introduction to the Law of Food & Agriculture

Neil Hamilton

1 credit condensed course

LAWW 7511

August 18-20, 2021

This special condensed course taught by visiting professor Neil Hamilton kicks off our semester. Recognized internationally for his insightful analysis of food and farms, Professor Hamilton provides an overview of the complex legal and policy issues presented by agricultural production, including a discussion of structural changes in agriculture, sustainability, and trends in consumer interest.



Food Law & Policy

Susan Schneider

2 credit full-semester course (**required for LL.M.**)

LAWW 7862

Friday, 10:00 – 11:40 a.m.

August 28 - December 4, 2021

This course taught by Program Director Professor Susan Schneider provides an introduction to the network of laws that govern our food system and a discussion of how those laws impact that system - for good or ill. An overview of regulation by both the Food & Drug Administration and the USDA is provided. Law and policy considerations are discussed in light of current issues.

Food, Farming & Sustainability (Survey of Agricultural Law)

Susan Schneider

2 credit full-semester course

LAWW 7412

Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

August 25 - December 1, 2021

In this course, Professor Schneider provides a survey of the complex legal topics that make up the body of agricultural law: how and why is agriculture treated differently than other industries? The course covers many of the traditional areas of agricultural law with a focus on current issues of significance.

Agriculture & the Environment

Christopher Kelley

2 credit full-semester course (required for LL.M.)

LAWW 7962

Thursday, 9:00 – 10:40 a.m.

August 26 - December 2, 2021



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 new unit on agricultural initiatives and climate change will be included in the course this year.

Specialized Legal Research & Writing (Effective Legal Writing)

Professor Christopher Kelley

1 credit full-semester, Pass/Fail course

LAWW 7231

Thursday, 1:00 -1:50 p.m.

Full Semester, August 26 - December 2, 2021

Not your typical LRW class. 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 this class to hundreds of lawyers and law students worldwide, students discuss examples in class and explore bad habits to avoid. The course also includes electronic research training, an introduction to the electronic research services available through the University of Arkansas library system, and advice on publication strategies. This course is designed to assist students in completing their LL.M. advanced legal writing requirement. It does not involve writing exercises and is offered for ungraded credit.



The Right to Food

Uche Ewelukwa Ofodile

1 credit half-semester course

LAWW 714V

Wednesday, 1:00 – 2:40 p.m.

HALF Semester / Seven sessions: August 23 - October 8, 2021

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

1 credit half-semester course

LAWW 794V

Wednesday, 1:00 – 2:40 p.m.

HALF Semester / Seven sessions: October 13 - December 3

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.



Legal Issues: Indigenous Food & Agriculture

Erin Parker

1 credit half semester course

LAWW 762V

Tuesday, 9:00 - 10:40 a.m.

HALF Semester / Seven sessions: August 24 - October 5, 2021

We are delighted to welcome Erin Parker back to our faculty line-up. This course examines the complex interaction of tribal law, treaties, and federal agricultural and food laws, including property law applicable to tribal lands. Erin serves as the Executive Director of the Indigenous Food & Agriculture Initiative and is organizing this this course to include visits from Native American leaders and others with specialized expertise in this rapidly changing area of law and policy.

Farmed Animal Welfare

Lauren Manning

2 credit full semester course

LAWW 726(1)

Tuesday, 1:00 -2:40 p.m.

We are delighted to bring this online class into synchronous delivery this Fall, and Lauren Manning looks forward to being in the classroom. Lauren is a farmer and an ag-journalist in addition to her teaching. This course 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 so-called “ag gag” laws are discussed. Private certifications are also addressed. Policy discussions welcome all views.





Agricultural Policy and the Federal Budget

David Grahn

1 credit condensed course

LAWW 7321

Three-day class November 8-10, 2021 (tentative date)

This unique course provides the back-story to policy development in Congress. Developed and taught by none other than David Grahn and based on his decades of experience in D.C., this fast-paced course introduces the impact of the Office of Management and Budget and the cost scoring system on federal agricultural policy making. Current farm policy issues are discussed within the context of budgetary constraints and pressures.

Independently Conducted Courses with Faculty Support

Advanced Legal Research & Writing (1 credit independent writing project; satisfies the legal writing requirement; grade based on final written product)

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.

Independent Research in Agricultural & Food Law

LAWW 771V

(1-2 credits)

Independent research in agricultural and food law conducted under the supervision of a faculty member.

Practicum in Advocacy (candidates must have completed at least one semester in order to participate)

LAWW 764V

(1-4 credits)

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 the Director of the LL.M Program.

Important dates for Fall Semester

Classes begin: August 18 (Condensed course); August 23 (regular semester courses)

Holidays: September 6 (Labor Day); October 18-19 (Fall Break); November 24-26 (Thanksgiving)

Final day of class: December 3

Final exam period: December 6-17