

AALA PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Tyler Buswell

The American Agricultural Law Association (“AALA”) was founded in 1980 and is the premier association for agricultural law and policy professionals.¹ I joined AALA ten years ago to better serve my agricultural industry clients that were doing transactions around the country. My AALA membership has been very beneficial to me as it has helped me gain additional expertise in agricultural law and policy issues, and develop a network of great agricultural law practitioners.

In 2022, AALA continued to grow its membership base and programming options. We had a very successful Annual Symposium in New Orleans, Louisiana, from November 10th through 12th.² Nearly 300 people attended the symposium from 44 states across the country, a United States territory, and one Canadian province. The event included 37 different CLE sessions and offered 16.5 total hours of CLE.³ About 90 individuals presented on agricultural law topics.⁴

Throughout 2022, AALA also provided other quality programming, including seven different webinars. Webinar topics included, among other things, the Farm Bill, agricultural insolvency, indoor agriculture, bioengineered food, farmland succession, the hemp industry, and international agricultural trade issues.⁵ These webinars were attended by hundreds of individuals in total.

Anna Sewell, author of *Black Beauty*, wrote, “It is good people who make good places.” Similarly, AALA is a great organization because of its great people. AALA’s membership continues to be robust after some declines during the COVID-19 pandemic. AALA currently has eight committees that serve its members, which includes almost 100 total volunteers serving on such committees.⁶

AALA will continue to focus on its key strategic goals in 2023 and beyond. Such goals include continuing to provide high-quality, year-round CLE programs, serving as a forum for sharing information and discussion on agricultural laws and

1. See Amber S. Miller, *AALA Turns 40*, 24 *DRAKE J. AGRIC. L.* 1-6 (2019).

2. AM. AGRIC. L. ASS’N, 2022 AALA ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL LAW EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS, <https://www.aglaw-assn.org/wp-content/uploads/2022-FINAL-WEB-Session-Descriptions-Agenda.pdf> [<https://perma.cc/69PV-THUH>].

3. *Id.*

4. *Id.*

5. *Past Webinars*, AM. AGRIC. L. ASS’N (Apr. 11, 2023), <https://www.aglaw-assn.org/past-webinars/> [<https://perma.cc/T5MG-XYT3>].

6. *Committee Chairs*, AM. AGRIC. L. ASS’N (Apr. 11, 2023), <https://www.aglaw-assn.org/committeechairs/> [<https://perma.cc/MYA4-W87G>].

policies, engaging its current membership, recruiting new members, maintaining financial stability, and growing organizational diversity.⁷

We hope to see you in Charlotte, North Carolina on November 9-11, 2023.⁸

7. *See Strategic Plan*, AM. AGRIC. L. ASS'N (Apr. 11, 2023), <https://www.aglaw-assn.org/strategic-plan/> [<https://perma.cc/C5VX-4XV9>].

8. *2023 Annual Educational Symposium*, AM. AGRIC. L. ASS'N (Apr. 11, 2023), <https://www.aglaw-assn.org/events/2023-annual-educational-symposium/> [<https://perma.cc/AFM7-RTBH>].