

## AALA PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

*Jeffrey Peterson*

Greetings!

The American Agricultural Law Association (AALA) is excited to continue its partnership with the *Drake Journal of Agricultural Law* to publish articles from the 44th Annual AALA Educational Symposium in Charlotte, North Carolina.<sup>1</sup> The AALA and Drake University Law School have a long history, spanning all 45 years of the AALA.<sup>2</sup>

The vision of the AALA is to serve as the “premier association for agricultural law and policy professionals,” while “informing and engaging the law and policy professionals who serve all facets of the agricultural and food communities.”<sup>3</sup> The annual symposium provides a platform for the AALA to inform and engage the 300+ members of the AALA that attend the symposium. The AALA appreciates the *Drake Journal of Agricultural Law* broadcasting the content of the symposium to a wider audience.

Consumers want more. Consumers want to make informed decisions as to how food is grown, marketed, and sold. The *Helping Farm Clients with Online Marketing and Sales* and *Greenwashing and Sustainability Claims* articles highlight this.<sup>4</sup> Consumers also want to connect with agriculture by visiting farms and ranches, which presents its own legal issues. The *Legal and Policy Issues for a Growing Agritourism Industry* article identifies these concerns.<sup>5</sup> Finally, the Issue presents a practical essay discussing the implications of owning property in a different state, in *Ancillary Probate: “There’s No Place Like Home.”*<sup>6</sup> The

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1. See 2023 Annual Educational Symposium, AM. AGRIC. L. ASS’N (Sept. 11, 2024, 10:14 PM), <https://www.aglaw-assn.org/events/2023-annual-educational-symposium/> [<https://perma.cc/P3V5-3ANY>].

2. Donald L. Uchtmann, *American Agricultural Law Association: Past, Present and Future*, 12 DRAKE J. AGRIC. L. 1, 5 (2007).

3. *About*, AM. AGRIC. L. ASS’N (Sept. 11, 2024, 10:10 PM), <https://www.aglaw-assn.org/about/> [<https://perma.cc/49HY-TKK7>].

4. Nicole Cook, Lauren Handel & Margaret Todd, *Helping Farm Clients with Online Marketing and Sales*, 29 DRAKE J. AGRIC. L. 187 (2024); Jennifer Zwagerman, *Greenwashing and Sustainability Claims in Food & Agriculture: Understanding and Minimizing Risk*, 29 DRAKE J. AGRIC. L. 269 (2024).

5. Peggy Kirk Hall, Jesse J. Richardson, Jr. & Kristine Tidgren, *Legal and Policy Issues for a Growing Agritourism Industry*, 29 DRAKE J. AGRIC. L. 223 (2024).

6. Garrett Coutts & Emily Daniel, *Ancillary Probate: “There’s No Place Like Home,”* 29 DRAKE J. AGRIC. L. 299 (2024).

AALA and the *Drake Journal of Agricultural Law* work to serve as an integral voice in the conversation.

Growing up on a 200 acre, 40 head dairy farm in northwestern Wisconsin, I came to agricultural law like many other members of the AALA. Agricultural law seemed like a way to stay involved with agriculture (without having to wake up at 5:00 a.m. to milk cows) and mentors along the way took the time to show an interest in me. In my case, these individuals were Professor Keith Meyer at the University of Kansas School of Law, Professor Susan Schneider at the University of Arkansas School of Law, and Phil Kunkel, each lifelong members of the AALA. All of this has resulted in a rewarding career in agricultural law and the members of the AALA being my closest professional friends.

Enjoy the articles and continue to support Drake University Law School in fostering the next generation of agricultural law leaders and organizations like the *Drake Journal of Agricultural Law* that give a voice to these leaders.