

AGRICULTURE LAW EDUCATION INITIATIVE ADVISORY PANEL

The ALEI Advisory Panel provides feedback on the direction and progress of the Initiative. Members include farmers, public officials, and agriculture and natural resource organizations.

Valerie Connelly
Executive Director
Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc

Robert J. Etgen
Executive Director
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

Doug Green
Irrigation Manager and Farmer

Lynne Hoot
Executive Director
Maryland Grain Producers Association

Gary F. Kelman
AFO Program Manager
Nutrient Resources Division
Maryland Department of the Environment

Mary Ellen Setting
Deputy Secretary
Maryland Department of Agriculture

Stephen Weber, Jr.
Farmer

Providing legal education resources to Maryland farmers



AGRICULTURE LAW EDUCATION INITIATIVE PARTNERS

The Agriculture Law Education Initiative is a collaboration between the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of Maryland, College Park. Through the University of Maryland Extension – the statewide, non-formal agriculture education system – the collaboration partners with the School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences, University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Executive Committee

Dean Moses T. Kairo, PhD, School of Agricultural & Natural Sciences

Dean Donald B. Tobin, JD, Carey School of Law

Dean Cheng-i Wei, PhD, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Working Group Leadership Committee

Associate Dean Barbara Gontrum, JD, Carey School of Law

Assistant Dean Dan Kugler, PhD, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Professor Jurgen Schwarz, PhD, School of Agricultural & Natural Sciences

Working Group

Ms. Wele Elangwe, LLM, School of Agricultural & Natural Sciences

Mr. Paul Goeringer, LLM, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Ms. Ashley Newhall, LLM, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Professor Michael Pappas, JD, Carey School of Law

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Media Contacts

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Almost one-third of Maryland's land use is agriculture—

from dairy, grain, and livestock production to seafood, poultry, and turf production. Agriculture employs more than 45,000 Marylanders and contributes more than \$8.5 billion in economic impact annually.

Just as it is extraordinarily productive, Maryland's agricultural sector uses more of our state's natural resources, including land and water, than any other single industry. Consumer interest in food safety and animal welfare is on the rise. And, in an increasingly global marketplace, food production beyond our borders can impact agriculture at home.

Maryland farmers stand at the intersection of many competing interests and demands. Agriculture law is the network of laws and policies that apply to the food system and seek to balance these competing interests. The more Maryland farmers know about these laws, the better it is for Maryland agriculture.

The Agriculture Law Education Initiative provides information and resources to Maryland agriculture—helping Maryland farmers and allied industries understand the law.

Agriculture Law Education Initiative Activities

Visit our website www.umaglaw.org for listings of publications, education and training opportunities, attorney directories, news, updates, events, and contact information.

OUTREACH

ALEI produces and updates Fact Sheets on topics such as the Right-to-Farm Law, estate planning, and leasing.

Members of the Initiative are frequent presenters on topics of interest to Maryland farmers.

ALEI will continue to ask farmers and agriculture organizations to identify new and ongoing legal issues.

The Initiative currently hosts a pilot call-in service (Infoline) which directs Maryland farmers to information resources.

ALEI supports the new Section of Agriculture Law of the Maryland State Bar Association and is coordinating a series of webinars to educate Maryland attorneys on issues in agriculture.

EDUCATION

Members of the Initiative offer courses in food and agriculture law at Carey School of Law and at the University of Maryland, College Park.

RESEARCH

The Agriculture Law Education Initiative surveyed University of Maryland Extension (UME) educators and found that Environmental Compliance and Land Use are the two most Important issues facing Maryland farmers. UME is a state-wide collaboration between UM College Park and UMES.

Structured interviews were conducted with 21 agricultural stakeholders across the state. Regulatory Compliance, Land Use, and Right-to-Farm laws were Identified as some of the most prominent legal issues.

For more information email umaglaw@umd.edu or leave a message at 410-706-7377 (Infoline).