

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

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Irrigation Manager and Farmer

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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

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

Professor Michael Pappas, JD, Carey School of Law

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

Media Contacts

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Suzanne Street, School of Agricultural & Natural Sciences

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

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

Professor Stephan Tubene, PhD, School of Agricultural & Natural Sciences



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

Members of the Initiative are frequent presenters across the State on topics of interest to Maryland farmers such as environmental regulation, estate planning and land leasing.

ALEI produces easy-to-read legal publications and educational videos which can be found along with helpful environmental permitting links, on the ALEI website. The Initiative also co-publishes a blog with the Maryland Crop Insurance Education Program. This blog is updated almost daily with helpful legal, farm policy, and risk management posts and news stories on the issues currently facing Maryland's agricultural community.

The Initiative hosts a call-in service (Infoline) which allows Maryland farmers to call and speak directly to one of the ALEI attorneys and receive needed legal information and resources.

ALEI supports the 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.

RESEARCH

In the spring of 2013, ALEI conducted 23 structured interviews with representatives from the agricultural community, environmental community, and state government, to ascertain the legal needs of the Maryland agricultural community.

Results of the interviews illustrate that the top legal concerns of Maryland agricultural producers are environmental regulations, nuisance actions/right-to-farm, land use restrictions, estate planning and land leasing. Members of the Initiative are using the results of the legal needs survey to formulate presentations and publications to best serve the agricultural sector.

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