

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

Jim Eichhorst
Deputy Secretary
Maryland Department of Agriculture

Robert J. Etgen
Executive Director
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

Joanne Throwe
Deputy Secretary
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

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

Lindsay Thompson
Executive Director
Maryland Grain Producers Association

Stephen Weber, Jr.
Farmer

Doug Green
Irrigation Manager and Farmer

AGRICULTURE LAW EDUCATION INITIATIVE PARTNERS

The Agriculture Law Education Initiative (ALEI) is a collaboration of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB); the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP); and the School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). ALEI is an initiative of the University of Maryland: MPowering the State, a strategic alliance between UMB and UMCP created in 2012 to significantly expand research, business development, and student opportunities at both universities.

Executive Committee

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

Dean Donald B. Tobin, JD, Maryland Carey Law

Dean Craig Beyrouthy, PhD, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Working Group Leadership Committee

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

Assistant Dean Michael Pappas, JD, Maryland Carey Law

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

Media Contacts

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Mr. Alex Likowski, Maryland Carey Law

Mr. Graham Binder, University of Maryland College Park

Working Group

Ms. Nicole Cook, LLM, School of Agricultural & Natural Sciences

Mrs. Sarah M. Everhart, JD, Maryland Carey Law

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

Mrs. Kelly Nuckolls Winslow LLM, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Ms. Kimberly Johnson, ALEI Coordinator

Ms. Mayhah Suri, Faculty Assistant

Providing legal education
resources to **Maryland farmers**



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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
**AGRICULTURE LAW
EDUCATION INITIATIVE**
MPOWERING THE STATE

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

For more information visit our website www.umaglaw.org, email umaglaw@umd.edu, or leave a message at 410-706-7377 (Infoline).

EDUCATION

Student engagement and farming education are key elements of the University of Maryland's Agriculture Law Education Initiative (ALEI) program. ALEI educators prepare students to become critical thinkers and utilize analysis to inspire innovation in farming, food safety, public policy, and community engagement.

Through educational resources and collaborations with partners, students have the opportunity to participate in hands-on research and develop a program of study in a broad selection of agricultural science programs, leading to a career in farming and agriculture. Relevant law classes are being taught by the University of Maryland Francis Carey School of Law in Baltimore and by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources in College Park for upper level undergraduates.

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.

