



The National Agricultural Law Center

Western Agricultural and Environmental Law Conference 2024 Agenda

Thursday, June 13 – Friday, June 14 | Agenda is in Pacific Time

Check back for updates.

Thursday, June 13

7:00-8:25 a.m.: Registration and Breakfast

8:30-9:30 a.m.: *State Ag Departments & the Regulation of Agriculture and the Environment*

- Haig Baghdassarian, Deputy Secretary and Chief Counsel for the California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Cort Jensen, Chief Attorney, Montana Department of Agriculture
- Deanie Reh, Assistant Attorney General, Arizona Attorney General's Office

9:30-10:30 a.m.: *Going with the Flow: Instream Water Rights & the Future of Irrigated Ag*

- Merissa Moeller, Associate, Stoel Rives LLP

10:30-10:45 a.m.: *Break*

10:45-11:45 a.m.: *Water Law & Ethics: Sinking and Swimming With Litigation, Water Districts, and Agencies*

- Lauren D. Layne, Shareholder, Baker Manock & Jensen
- Joe M. Marchini, Shareholder, Baker Manock & Jensen

11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.: *Lunch (provided)*

1:15-2:15 p.m.: *The Future of Pesticides in Western States: The Latest Legal Developments & Trends*

- Brigit Rollins, Staff Attorney, The National Agricultural Law Center

2:15-3:15 p.m.: *Update from the Potomac: 2024 Farm Bill, Public Lands, & Related Federal Issues*

- Fitz Elder, Republican Staff Director, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry at the United States Senate
- Rosalyn Brummette, Policy Advisor, U.S. Senator Michael F. Bennet

3:15-3:30: p.m. *Break*

3:30-4:30 p.m.: *Streambeds, Game Trails, & Corner Crossings: Public Access & Private Property*

- Ryan Semerad, The Fuller & Semerad Law Firm
- Karen Budd-Falen, Senior Partner, Budd-Falen Law Offices L.L.C.

Friday, June 14

7:00-8:25 a.m.: Registration and Breakfast

8:30-9:30 a.m.: *The Klamath River Basin & the Endangered Species Act: Implications for Ag in Western States*

- Paul Simmons, Special Counsel, Somach Simmons & Dunn

9:30-10:30 a.m.: *Navigating Land Ownership and Economic Growth: Insights into Tribal Agricultural Development*

- Jessie Barrington, Executive Director, Western Resources Legal Center located at Lewis & Clark Law School

10:30-10:45 a.m.: *Break*

10:45-11:45 a.m.: *Keynote Address: From Regulation to Adjudication: Perspectives on Agriculture and Trade*

- The Honorable Judge Stephen Alexander Vaden, United States Court of International Trade, Former USDA General Counsel

11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.: *Lunch (provided)*

12:45 p.m.-1:45 p.m.: *Ethical Considerations: Artificial Intelligence & The Law*

- David A. McCarville, Director, Business & Finance, Fennemore Craig, P.C.

1:45-2:00 p.m.: *Break*

2:00-3:00 p.m.: *WOTUS & Water Quality in the West in a Post-Sackett World*

- Tess Dunham, Partner, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP

3:00-4:00 p.m.: *Buying the Farm: Navigating Restrictions, Title, & Transparency Requirements of Foreign Investments in U.S. Land*

- Harrison Pittman, Director, The National Agricultural Law Center
- Devin P. McComb, Partner, Perkins Coie LP
- Jen Modjeska, Division Underwriting Counsel, First American Title Insurance Company