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An Agricultural Law Research Article

**American Agricultural Law Association:
Past, Present and Future**

by

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AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL LAW ASSOCIATION: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE¹

Donald L. Uchtmann²

Two and a half years ago the Nominating Committee asked me to be the nominee for President-Elect. My first reaction was to decline. After all, I had served as President Elect and then President of the American Agricultural Law Association (“AALA”) in the early 1980’s. “*Been there and done that*” ... I thought to myself. However, I did promise John Becker, Chair of the Nominating Committee, that I would think about the possibility for a few days before giving my answer. Upon reflection, I came to realize that serving in this leadership role would be a new challenge and opportunity, not a return to the past. The world had changed, the broad field of agricultural law had changed, our Association had changed, and I certainly was not the same person that I had been twenty-four years earlier. Since the 3rd Annual Agricultural Law Symposium in 1982, when I concluded my first term as president, I had completed at least two very distinct chapters in my own professional career, including nine years in various administrative leadership positions within my university, roles that had drawn me away from my professorial engagement with agricultural law as I was reaching full stride in the “full professor” chapter of my academic career. So, in response to the question posed by the Nominating Committee, I finally said yes, not because I wanted to revisit the past, but, instead, because I was excited about the future of the AALA which was poised on the threshold of its second quarter century.

Today, with about four hours left in my second term as President, I have a unique perspective on this organization. I will take this opportunity, my second President’s Address³, to share some thoughts from this special vantage point.

1. President’s Address delivered at the 27th Annual Agricultural Law Symposium, Savannah, Georgia, October 14, 2006.

2. Professor of Agricultural Law, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, U. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. B.S. (Honors), U. of Illinois; M.A., U. of Leeds, England; J.D. (*cum laude*), The Cleveland State U. President of the American Agricultural Law Association, 1981-82 and 2005-06. His October 14, 2006 President’s Address, revised and extended, follows.

3. Uchtmann’s first President’s Address was delivered in 1982. His address, revised and extended, was published in 1983. Donald L. Uchtmann, *Agricultural Law: Past, Present and Future*, 4 AGRIC. L.J. 443-449 (1983).

First, I will review the three-step genesis of the AALA. I will then offer some thoughts regarding various forces and events that seemed to coalesce in the late 1970s and early 1980s, making this the “right time” for our organization to come into being. Next, as a way of illustrating the changes that have occurred within the AALA over a quarter century, I will briefly compare the two annual symposia I organized as President Elect, the 2nd Annual Symposium in St Louis (1981) and the 26th in Kansas City (2005), and I will note some of the special strengths I see within the AALA as this 27th Annual Symposium comes to a close. Finally, I will offer some guiding thoughts about the future. Still a student of life and philosopher at heart, I will interject some personal reflections throughout these remarks.

THE THREE-STEP GENESIS OF THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL LAW ASSOCIATION

Step 1 – the Farm Foundation-sponsored 1979 “brain storming” event in Chicago. In December, 1979, Farm Foundation⁴ sponsored a “brain storming” event in Chicago. The purpose of this event was to explore an idea, the creation of a new national association for professionals with interests in agricultural law. Some of the key players at this event were R. James Hildreth (now deceased), Managing Director of Farm Foundation; Professor Neil Harl from Iowa State University; and Professor Dale Dahl (now deceased) from the U. of Minnesota. Other well established or newly evolving leaders in the field of agricultural law also participated in this exciting exploration of an idea, including a relatively young, recently tenured associate professor from the University of Illinois named Don Uchtmann.

Interestingly, I have only the vaguest recollections of our discussions that December day, perhaps because I was pre-occupied with other matters. We did agree to meet again in the summer of 1980, but my most vivid memory was a phone message from Nancy, my bride of five years who was nine months pregnant. I had come to Chicago during this time of “expecting” (not so much the 11th hour, but well into the 9th month), realizing that I could return to Urbana, Illinois in two and a half hours by car if “the call” came. I think I made it home

4. Farm Foundation, formed in 1933, is a publicly supported nonprofit organization working to improve the economic health and social well-being of U.S. agriculture, the food system and rural people. Serving as a catalyst, Farm Foundation partners with private and public stakeholders, sponsoring conferences and workshops to explore factors that (a) shape the competitiveness of agriculture and the food system, (b) encourage application of research results to increase human capital, (c) promote informed dialogue on public issues and policies, and (d) build knowledge-based networks for U.S. agriculture and rural people. See Farm Foundation, <http://www.farmfoundation.org/> (last visited Feb. 15, 2007).

in record time that day but Nancy's message was actually a False Alarm. Brian, our third child, would not be born until the next week.

Step 2 – the July 1980 follow-up meeting at the University of Illinois. In July 1980, a follow-up planning meeting was held at the Urbana-Champaign campus of the University of Illinois in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Agricultural Economics Association. Once again Farm Foundation was a catalyst for this second planning meeting. The work product from the July 1980 meeting was significant. Most importantly, those attending:

- Endorsed draft Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws (Neil Harl had prepared drafts using as a guide the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the well-established American Agricultural Economics Association), and
- Decided to hold an educational symposium at the University of Minnesota in December 1980 (it would be underwritten, financially, by Farm Foundation; Dale Dahl would lead the effort to organize the topics and speakers for the agricultural law symposium; and the gathering, itself, would provide an opportunity to finalize the draft articles of incorporation and bylaws).

Step 3 – the December 1980 First Annual Agricultural Law Symposium, held at the University of Minnesota. In December 1980, a national contingent of attorneys and other professionals with special interests in agricultural law gathered at the University of Minnesota – Minneapolis/St. Paul for what would be the 1st Annual Agricultural Law Symposium. Neil Harl recalls that about 150 people attended and I vividly remember that it was COLD!! I also remember that the substantive program was of high quality, including a presentation by U. of Illinois Professor Emeritus H. W. (Hank) Hannah, now deceased, who is viewed by many as one of the pioneers of agricultural law. In the midst of this gathering, I realized that many shared my interest in the applications of law to agriculture, that I had much to learn from such people, that others probably had much to learn from me, and that gatherings like this symposium provided a welcomed, refreshing venue for broader professional collegueship that had been missing in my career.

As I attended this 1980 symposium after working with others in the two earlier planning meetings, I concluded that a professional association offering a high quality annual symposium and providing other opportunities for professional growth and collegueship was, indeed, needed. Others attending must have reached the same conclusion because, together, we took historically signifi-

cant actions during the business meeting of this December 1980 agricultural law symposium:

- We acted to create the AALA by adopting Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws (hence, the AALA is described as being “Founded in 1980”).
- We elected officers (Neil Harl was elected our 1st President; I was selected as the 1st President-Elect; Jake Looney was elected the 1st Secretary-Treasurer).
- We elected the Association’s first Board of Directors: Dale C. Dahl, Earl M. Willits, John H. Davidson, Stephen F. Matthews, James B. Dean, and Paul L. Wright (Harl and Uchtmann also served as voting members of the board in their capacities as President and President-Elect).⁵

A few months later the incorporators of our association, Neil E. Harl and Donald L. Uchtmann, signed the Articles of Incorporation and filed them with the Iowa Secretary of State.⁶ THE AALA WAS BORN! Its genesis was complete.

In reflecting more generally on these events, I observe that the progression from ideas, to initial actions, to formation of a national organization can happen in a remarkably short time period. However, the idea needs to be sound, the people involved need to be supportive, some person (like Neal Harl) or organization (like Farm Foundation) must be willing to “step up” as a leader or catalyst, bringing all the pieces together, and the timing must be right. The time was right for the AALA.

5. Note that the initial AALA board included three future presidents: Dale Dahl, James Dean, and Paul Wright. Also note that Paul Wright was recently inducted into the Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame, a further tribute to his leadership in the field of agriculture.

6. The Articles were received by the Iowa Secretary of State (Mary Jane Odell) on April 20, 1981 and recorded in Book 8-V, page 133. See Iowa Secretary of State, Business Services, American Agricultural Law Association, http://www.sos.state.ia.us/corp/corp_search.asp?Corp=American+Agricultural+Law+Associati&submittedcorp=1&cboRows=10. The Articles also were filed as Instrument No. 06768 with the County Recorder for Story County, Iowa (Susan L. Potter) on June 2, 1981 in Book 23, Page 176.

1980 – THE RIGHT TIME TO CREATE THE
AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL LAW ASSOCIATION

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, “Ag Law” was HOT! Some of the new developments in agricultural law that occurred during this exciting period included:

- Founding the AALA in 1980
- Launching the LLM program in Agricultural Law at the University of Arkansas School of Law
- Subsequently launching the Agricultural Law Program at Drake University Law School (followed some years later by a new Agricultural Law emphasis at Penn State’s Dickinson Law School)
- Creating a new journal, the *Agricultural Law Journal*, edited by Jake Looney, James Dean, and John Schumann and published by Callaghan and Company
- Publishing West’s new casebook, *Agricultural Law*, by Meyer, Peder-son, Davidson, and Thorson
- Publishing McGraw Hill’s textbook for undergraduate students, *Agricul-tural Law – Principles & Cases*, by Uchtmann, Looney, Krausz, and Hannah
- The appearance of Neil Harl’s multi-volume treatise, *Agricultural Law*, published by Matthew Bender
- Creating within the American Bar Association the ABA Forum Com-mittee on Rural Lawyers and Agri-Business and the flurry of activity that followed
- Creating Agricultural Law divisions within state Attorneys General of-fices, e.g., the Agricultural Law Division within the Office of the Iowa Attorney General
- Creating new Agricultural Law faculty positions within Colleges of Agriculture at some of the leading Land Grant Universities, including the

University of Illinois, Kansas State University, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), to name a few.

These many developments in agricultural law reflected, in part, the agricultural boom of the 1970s that turned, regrettably, into an agricultural crisis in the 1980s, the increasing interest in natural resource and environmental issues related to agriculture, concerns about the structural changes in agriculture and who should own farmland in America, the effect of banking and credit laws on agricultural producers, and the impact of federal estate taxes and various income tax incentives on agricultural firms. With legal issues related to agriculture becoming increasingly important and complex, the time was right to launch the AALA, unlike the 1960s and early 1970s when the idea was also considered.⁷

On a personal note, I recall that 1981 was not the ideal time for me to be serving the AALA as its President-Elect, even though the early 1980s was the right time for the AALA to become established as a professional association. I was still in the “start up” phases of my academic career, was relatively young compared to the veterans (Harl and Dahl, for example) who served as President before and after my term, and Nancy and I had three young children, including Brian, whose 1st birthday roughly coincided with the 1st Annual Agricultural Law Symposium held in Minnesota in December 1980 and whose future birthdays would be linked to the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc., annual symposia of the AALA because of the timing of his birth relative to the genesis of the AALA.

An important insight comes to mind as I reflect on the matter of timing. When you and I are called on to serve our communities or professions, the timing is rarely ideal; so, if we are ever to play our part in serving our communities and professions, we must be prepared to say “yes” even though the timing is not ideal from a personal standpoint.

AALA’S 2ND ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM (ST. LOUIS, 1981) COMPARED TO
ITS 26TH (KANSAS CITY, 2005) AND ITS 27TH (SAVANNAH, 2006) –
GLIMPSES OF A CHANGING ORGANIZATION

As President-Elect, I organized the 2nd Annual Agricultural Law Symposium (1981 in St. Louis) and as President-Elect a second time, I organized the

7. An earlier generation of agricultural law professionals was interested in creating a national agricultural law association, according to earlier conversations the author had with older agricultural law professionals, including N.G.P. Krausz and H.W. Hannah, now deceased. Their hopes to create such an association before 1980 simply did not materialize. Their idea was the same idea that blossomed in 1980, but before 1980 the timing was not right for all the pieces to come together.

26th Symposium (2005 in Kansas City, Missouri). A comparison of these symposia provides a glimpse of how AALA has matured over two and a half decades.

In 1981, attendance in St. Louis was roughly one hundred, but when we met in Kansas City, Missouri twenty-four years later our attendance had doubled, including a healthy representation of law students. The program, too, had expanded, from a day and a half format to a two day program with many concurrent sessions. Both the 1981 and 2005 programs included a President's Address. Out-going president Neil Harl, a professor from Iowa State University, spoke at our second symposium⁸ and out-going president Bill Bridgforth, a practicing attorney from Arkansas, spoke in 2005. The symbolism is important. The first six presidents of our association were professors, but as the organization grew and diversified, members of the practicing bar, now the largest subset of AALA members, have regularly assumed major leadership roles.⁹

The financial outcomes of the 1981 and 2005 meetings were also different. As we planned our 2001 symposium, our first attempt at holding an annual meeting without significant financial underwriting from Farm Foundation, we faced a special challenge as a fledging organization. In fact, our registration fees were insufficient to cover our conference costs. Fortunately, we had a few extra dollars in the treasury from annual dues and we were able to pay all our bills, barely. By the time we met in Kansas City, our organization was on a sound financial footing (and had been for many years) with sufficient reserves to allow AALA to take some risks with new formats, different conference locations, and emerging topics. In fact, our recent symposia, Kansas City in 2005, Des Moines in 2004, and San Antonio in 2003, etc., have generally been outstanding events that were successful both programmatically and financially.

Four other contrasts between the 1981 and 2005 meetings are noteworthy. In 1981, the AALA did not have an executive director and the whole weight of planning and arranging the meeting fell primarily on the President-Elect. In 2005, the AALA had an Executive Director, Robert Achenbach, and the value of his assistance, both in arranging for the annual meeting and in keeping the organization running smoothly throughout the year, cannot be overstated.¹⁰ Also,

8. Neil E. Harl, *Agricultural Law: A Place in the Intellectual Firmament*, 3 AGRIC. LJ. 537 (1982).

9. The first six presidents, all faculty members, were Neil Harl (Iowa State U.), Don Uchtmann (U. of Illinois), Dale Dahl (U. of Minn.), J. W. Looney (U. of Arkansas), Keith Meyer (U. of Kansas), and David Myers (Valparaiso U.). AALA's seventh president, James B. Dean, a lawyer who practiced in Denver, was the first of many non-faculty members to serve in this leadership role. See Appendix A.

10. The first Executive Director of AALA was William Babione who assumed this paid leadership position in 1990 when the position was created to replace the volunteer office of Secretary-Treasurer. See Appendix A.

we had no awards program in 1981 but by 2005 the AALA's established awards program had recognized many people for their scholarly writing or distinguished service. The organization's leadership in 1981 was entirely male, but by 2005 many professional women, including former presidents Margaret R. (Peggy) Grossman, Patricia Conover, and Susan Schneider, had served and were serving in important leadership roles. Finally, in 1981 our fledging organization had little history to celebrate, but in 2005 our Saturday luncheon included a special celebration, the Twenty-five Year History of the *Agricultural Law Update*, the Association's monthly publication. This celebration noted many changes in the organization since its inception, changes suggesting that both the AALA and its primary publication had matured.

Today, I see many organizational attributes that will serve the AALA very well in its second quarter century.

- The AALA has strong leadership. Steve Halbrook, who will become President at the conclusion of this annual meeting, has demonstrated excellent leadership in organizing this truly outstanding annual meeting in Savannah (Steve, thank you for a wonderful conference!). Steve will be assisted by an excellent Board of Directors, including its newly elected members and new president-elect, and a capable Executive Director.
- The AALA has a tradition of excellent annual meetings and we have every reason to believe that this tradition will carry forward to San Diego in October of 2007!
- The AALA is in a strong financial position, including some reserves that will allow it to consider new initiatives for the future and take other reasonable risks.
- This organization has the willingness and ability to think futuristically. For example, still ahead on our program this afternoon is a session titled "Agricultural Law in the 21st Century" – Emerging Issues. Also, the AALA's Communications Committee has been hard at work considering how best to deliver valuable, timely information to AALA members in an electronic age.
- The underlying substance of our association, law applicable to agriculture, is full of "HOT" issues, from bio fuels to biotech and from natural resources to rural development, just to scratch the surface.

As important as the preceding list of strengths may be, the AALA's greatest strength in my opinion is its membership:

- Our membership of more than six hundred is generally stable and is experiencing moderate growth.
- Our membership includes a healthy mix of practicing attorneys, academics, and attorneys who work in government or in non-governmental organizations; all our members are generally "down to earth, solid, genuine people."
- Our membership includes many dedicated, long term members who continue to support the organization year after year (many in the audience stood when those who attended one of the early organizational efforts were invited to stand).
- Our membership is also infused with many new members and a healthy sprinkling of "students" who help to challenge the organization to adapt to a changing world (many in the audience stood when those who were attending an AALA symposium for the first time or were students were invited to stand).

As we near the conclusion of our 27th Annual Symposium in Savannah, it seems to me that we are a healthy organization, full of life and energy, and with a bright future. For this we are indebted to all who have served this organization in leadership roles since its founding in 1980. A list of all officers and board members who have served the AALA since 1980 appears as Appendix A.

SOME GUIDING THOUGHTS FOR THE FUTURE

As our 27th symposium nears its conclusion, I am just as excited about the future of the AALA as I was when I agreed to serve as president for a second time. I would like to offer some guiding thoughts for the future but it might be a little presumptuous of me to offer advice to all of you, many of whom are wiser and older than me. Instead, permit me to update you on Brian, who soon will celebrate his 27th birthday. Then I will share some thoughts that I have adapted from advice I recently prepared for him.

Here is the update on Brian. He is a 2002 Mechanical Engineering graduate of the University of Illinois who has been working as an engineer in the U.S. auto industry. In spite of turmoil in the auto industry, his engineering career has unfolded nicely and he has gained valuable experience. Brian, nevertheless,

has been considering different possibilities for his future and in the summer of 2006 he made a decision. He resigned his engineering position and entered law school this fall. He hopes to blend his technical expertise in engineering, his practical experience in industry, and his study of law, perhaps to become a patent attorney.

So, as Brian began to engage the law in the 27th year of his life, I prepared some guiding thoughts for his future, variations of which I now share with you at our 27th symposium. You can decide which of these thoughts represent good advice for you as an individual or for the American Agricultural Law Association as an organization.

First, enjoy your pursuit of the law! It is the mortar of civilized society. Though sometimes unmercifully demanding, law can be a very rewarding career professionally, personally, and often financially. Also, one knowledgeable in the law can do “a lot of good” in the world. You are pursuing an honorable profession.

Second, you now are immersed in an intensive learning environment, law school, but I encourage you never to stop learning. One way to accomplish this is to be active in organizations that encourage and assist in your professional growth and development. Another approach is to keep stimulating your intellectual curiosity. Read, travel, and pursue new experiences. Remember, the day you stop seeking new knowledge and insight is the day you stop being a true professional.

Third, be prepared to “reinvent” yourself from time to time. A wise university provost once told me that professors need to reinvent themselves every five to ten years otherwise we will never be able to stay current in our respective fields. In this rapidly changing world, I think this sound advice to university professors applies much more broadly to professionals generally and to organizations.

Fourth, pay attention to relationships. If you choose a lifelong partner, that decision will be the most important one of your life and that relationship (and relationships with any children) will deserve your utmost attention. Other especially important relationships may be with members of your extended family, select professional colleagues, and special friends. You can not choose your extended family, but you can choose those who will be your closest colleagues and lifelong friends. Choose them wisely. They will help shape who you are and you will be judged to some extent by who they are.

My fifth thought is an extension of the fourth. As a young person, include some older people in your circle of close associates; as you grow older, keep young people among your friends and colleagues. Older associates can share valuable perspectives that only the experiences of life can provide. As you grow older, younger people can help you stay energized and fresh in your out-

look. Relationships that can provide such intergenerational links include teacher and student, mentor and young professional, relationships within your family, and various collegial interactions within a bar association or the AALA. Cultivate such intergenerational interactions faithfully.

Sixth, realize that time is a wonderful gift that becomes even more precious as you grow older. Use this gift wisely because it is non renewable. Much of your time will be devoted to your work, to your family however defined, to your friends, and to yourself as an individual. But save part of your time to serve your community and your profession, you owe it to those around you and serving your community and profession will enrich your life immensely. As you struggle with the many demands on your time, do not lose sight of the things that are really important in your life. It is easy to waste both time and energy worrying about things that really don't matter. If you have not yet identified the special things that matter most in your life, decide quickly because without this insight the thousands of decisions we face in life are unmanageable.

Seventh, have fun. The most grueling periods in my own professional life generally have been the times when I became so immersed in my work that I forgot to have fun. Clearly, life cannot always be fun but the way you approach your work and your interactions with others can make a difference. Never take the task at hand or yourself too seriously and always look for the humor to be found in so many everyday experiences.

Eighth, be disciplined as you manage your financial affairs and personal health. Save some of your income regularly, spend wisely, and adopt a healthy lifestyle. If you exercise self discipline you are far more likely to be healthy and a person (or organization) of financial means later in life. That can be empowering in many ways including being able to support people and organizations and causes that you otherwise could not support. But do not be afraid to take reasonable risks or even to fail on occasion. There is much truth to the adage, "*nothing ventured, nothing gained*" and an unchecked fear of failure can be petrifying (we all fail in one way or another at some point in our lives). As you think about your general health and well being, remember that there is no better person to look after "you" than "you".

Ninth, be thoughtful and reflective as you go through life, but don't just think, Act! The experiences of life can be a great teacher but you will need to reflect on those experiences in order for them to be most valuable. Also, you will face many important decisions in life that will deserve thoughtful reflection before the decision is made. And sometimes, just taking a deep breath before you respond to a particularly irritating situation can provide the "instant of reflection" needed to avoid saying things in anger that can never be taken back. As you consider the importance of appropriate reflection, remember also the tragedy of ex-

cessive reflection. Endless thought and analysis without finally making a decision or taking action is wasted energy and perhaps lost opportunity.

Tenth, strive for excellence in your work and in all you do but don't let yourself become a slave to perfection. Strive to do a task well and then with confidence let go of it so you can move on to other things. It is easy to waste precious time and energy if, in the impossible quest for perfection, one holds on to the task too long.

Finally, be a person of integrity in a world in which integrity seems to be woefully lacking. I believe this, at its core, means being intellectually honest with yourself and others (there should be no room in your life for deceit), acting ethically, and striving to follow the Golden Rule, "*Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.*"

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

I have enjoyed sharing this historical perspective on our organization, including an assessment of our organization's current strengths and some guiding thoughts for the future. In closing, I want to thank you for your support this year. It has been a good year.¹¹ Twice I have been privileged to serve the AALA as its president, each time at a different season of my professional career and of the organization's development. The two experiences have been most satisfying. I have worked with many wonderful people, people I am very happy to consider colleagues and friends. I look forward to our future interactions and to the future of the AALA, including its 2007 symposium in San Diego!

11. For a list of accomplishments made by the AALA this year, see appendix B.

UCHTMANN PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS, APPENDIX A

American Agricultural Law Association Officers & Board Members (1980-2007)

A year of service (e.g., October 1985 to October 1986) generally is indicated by the calendar year in which the year of service ended. People who served as President also generally served as President-Elect and Past President, and also were board members all three years. An asterisk indicates the person is a charter member of AALA's board, i.e., served as an officer or director in the year AALA was incorporated.

Robert Achenbach (Exec. Dir. May 2004-present)
 Walter J. Armbruster (Pres. 1997; Bd. 1989-91, 1996-98)
 James Baarda (Bd. 2007-09)
 William P. Babione (Sec.-Treas. 1989; Exec. Dir 1990-2001)
 Steven C. Bahls (Pres. 2001; Bd. 1993-95, 2000-02)
 John W. Baldrige (Bd. 1996-98)
 Delmar K. Banner (Bd. 1993-95)
 John C. Becker (Pres. 2002; Bd. 1992-94, 2001-03)
 William C. Bridgforth (Pres. 2005; Bd. 1994-96, 2004-06)
 Terence J. Centner (Pres. 1993; Sec.-Treas. 1986-87; Bd. 1988-90, 1992-94)
 Patricia Allen Conover (Pres. 2000; Bd. 1994-96, 1999-2001)
 Gary D. Condra (Bd. 1999-2001)
 John D. Copeland (Bd. 1998-2000)
 Dale C. Dahl* (Pres. 1983; Bd. 1981-1984)
 John H. Davidson* (Bd. 1981-82)
 James B. Dean* (Pres. 1987; Bd. 1981-83, 1986-88)
 Ted E. Deaner (Bd. 1990-92)
 Donna F. Dunn (Exec. Dir. 2001- May 2004)
 Theodore A. Feithans (Bd. 2004-06)
 Kenneth J. Fransen (Bd. 1987-89)
 Larry R. Gearhardt (Bd. 2003-05)
 L. Leon Geyer (Pres. 2002; Bd. 1996-98, 2001-03)
 Margaret R. Grossman (Pres. 1991; Sec.-Treas. 1984-85; Bd. 1986-88, 1990-92)
 Steve A. Halbrook (Pres. 2007; Bd. 2000-02, 2006-08)
 Neil E. Hamilton (Pres. 1992; Bd. 1985-87, 1991-93)
 Neil E. Harl* (Pres. 1981; Bd. 1981-82)
 Philip E. Harris (Pres. 1988; Bd. 1983-85, 1987-89)
 Gerald A. Harrison (Bd. 1999-2001)
 Anne C. Hazlett (Bd. 2004-06)

Pat Jensen (Bd. 2006-08)
Donald H. Kelley (Bd. 1989-91)
Drew L. Kershen (Pres. 1996; Bd. 1988-90, 1995-97)
Phillip L. Kunkel (Pres. 1989; Bd. 1985-87, 88-90)
Lawrence B. Kurland (Bd. 1984-86)
Thomas A. Lawler (Pres. 1999; Bd. 1991-93, 1998-2000)
Karin B. Littlejohn (Bd. 1984-86)
J .W. (Jake) Looney* (Pres. 1984; Sec.-Treas. 1981-1983; Bd. 1983-85)
Alan R. Malasky (Bd. 1995-97)
Linda A. Malone (Bd. 1987-89)
Stephen F. Matthews* (Bd. 1981-82, 1997-99)
Eldon McAfee (Bd. 2006-08)
Roger A. McEowen (Pres. Elect 2007; Bd. 2002-04)
Dona J. Merg (Bd. 1997-99)
Keith G. Meyer (Pres. 1985; Bd. 1984-86)
David Moeller (Bd. 2005-07)
Richard N. Morrison (Bd. 2001-03)
Maureen Kelly Moseman, a/k/a Maureen C. Kelly (Bd. 2001-03)
David A. Myers (Pres. 1986; Bd. 1982-84, 1985-87)
Michael Olexa (Bd. 2005-07)
Donald B. Pedersen (Pres. 1990; Bd. 1989-91)
William E. Penn (Bd. 2007-09)
David W. Pryor (Bd. 2000-02)
Henry E. Rodegerdts (Bd. 2003-05)
Patricia J. Rynn (Bd. 1992-94)
Susan A. Schneider (Pres. 2004; Bd. 1998-2000, 2003-05)
John Schumann (Bd. 1983-85)
Ann B. Stevens (Bd. 1991-93)
Amy K. Swanson (Bd. 2002-04)
Gordon W. Tanner (Bd. 1995-97)
Norman W. Thorson (Pres. 1994; Bd. 1982-84, 1993-96)
Donald L. Uchtmann* (Pres. 1982, 2006; Bd. 1981-83, 2005-07)
Sarah Vogel (Bd. 1990-92)
J. Patrick Wheeler (Pres. 1995; Bd. 1986-88, 1994-96)
Mason E. Wiggins, Jr. (Sec.-Treas. 1988)
Earl M. Willits* (Bd. 1981)
Paul L. Wright* (Pres. 1998; Bd. 1981-83, 1997-99)

UCHTMANN PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS, APPENDIX B

American Agricultural Law Association Accomplishments

Uchtmann's final written president's report to the Board of Directors included a list of Board/Committee Actions and Accomplishments for the year. Excerpts from the list follow. The AALA ...

- Developed procedures and completed a Performance Review of Executive Director. ✓
- Negotiated and executed a new 2-Year Contract for Executive Director Services. ✓
- Changed AALA dues to provide a discount of \$35 for international members who receive the Agricultural Law Update by e-mail, bringing their annual dues from \$125 to \$90. ✓
- Completed hotel selection/contract for 2007 Symposium (San Diego, October 2007), and selected the general location for the 2008 Symposium (Minneapolis-St. Paul). ✓
- Entered into an MOU with the National Agricultural Law Center regarding archiving past issues of the Ag Law Update on the NALC website after a lag of 12 months. ✓
- Considered whether AALA should become an Institutional Member of CAST (Council for Agri. Science and Tech.) and decided to take no further action on CAST membership at this time. ✓
- Collaborated with the Agricultural Management Committee of the ABA's Section on Environment, Energy & Resources to co-sponsor the sixth "International Biotechnology Roundtable" held June 27, 2006 at the Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, MO. ✓
- Amended Bylaws to address financial matters, i.e., making the Past President the Chair of the Finance Committee, requiring an outside audit at least every 3 years, and requiring that periodic reports from financial institutions with AALA deposits be sent to the Finance Committee (in addition to the Executive Director). ✓

- Selected 2006 AALA Awards Recipients, including an ad hoc award for 2006 (thanks to Awards Committee). ✓
- Redesigned and Updated the AALA Website (thanks to Robert Achenbach). ✓
- Began a process to determine how to better meet the information needs of AALA members. ✓
- Finished the year with 637 members for 2006 (as of 10/12/06), including many new members. ✓