

SECOND ANNUAL MID-SOUTH AGRICULTURAL & FOOD LAW CONFERENCE
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES
APRIL 17, 2015

Stephanie Showalter Otts directs the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Legal Program and the National Sea Grant Law Center, which provides legal research, education and outreach services to the National Sea Grant College Program. She also serves as editor of the Sea Grant Law and Policy Journal. Stephanie speaks frequently at national and international conferences on a wide range of coastal issues including the regulation of ballast water, aquaculture and public access to the waterfront. Stephanie received her Juris Doctor and Master of Studies in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School. She received her bachelor of arts degree from Penn State University. Stephanie also teaches ocean and coastal law, wetlands law, and wildlife law at the University of Mississippi School of Law.

Peggy Kirk Hall is an assistant professor and field specialist in agricultural and resource law. Hall is a graduate of The Ohio State University (B.S., M.S., Natural Resource Policy) and the University of Wyoming College of Law (J.D.), where she served on the Land & Water Law Review. She is a Past President and Board Member of the American Agricultural Law Association; Past Chair of the Ohio State Bar Association Agricultural Law Committee and served as an Advisory Board Member for the National Agricultural Law Center. Hall currently teaches Agribusiness Law in the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University and directs research and outreach projects for OSU's Agricultural & Resource Law Program.

Ross Pifer is a Clinical Law Professor at Penn State Law where he teaches agricultural law and serves as Director of the Agricultural Law Resource Reference Center. Ross has presented widely throughout Pennsylvania, as well as nationally and internationally, on shale gas and agricultural law topics to audiences comprised of judges, attorneys, legislators, government officials, landowners, and the general public. His research interests are shale gas development and the interface between agricultural and residential development as well as GMO labeling laws. He served as an attorney with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of General Counsel, and has advised military personnel and commands in the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Great Britain, and Germany while on active duty with the U.S. Army JAG Corps at the Netherlands Law Center. Among other publications, Ross has written an article on GMO labeling to be published in the Penn State Law Review. Ross earned an LL.M. from the University of Arkansas School of Law Agricultural & Food Law Program, and is an active member of the American Agricultural Law Association.

Harrison Pittman serves as Director of the National Agricultural Law Center, the nation's leading source of agricultural and food law research and information (www.nationaglawcenter.org). The Center is also the lead institution for the Agricultural & Food Law Consortium, a first of its kind 4-university partnership designed to enhance and expand the delivery of objective and timely agricultural and food law research and information to the nation's agricultural community. Harrison received his Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law, after attending Mississippi State University and graduating from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He then earned an LL.M. in Agricultural Law from the University of Arkansas School of Law's Graduate Program in Agricultural Law.

Rusty Rumley serves as Senior Counsel at the National Agricultural Law Center. He graduated magna cum laude from Oklahoma State University in 2004 with a B.S. in AgriBusiness and in 2007 earned his *juris doctor* from the University of Oklahoma. While attending the University of Oklahoma he was a

member of the American Indian Law Review and worked part-time for Oklahoma Farm Bureau Legal Foundation. After law school, Rusty earned his LL.M in Agricultural Law at the University of Arkansas, and is licensed to practice law in the state of Oklahoma. Additionally, he has co-taught a course titled “Animals and Agricultural Production, Law and Policy” several times at the University of Oklahoma College of Law and most recently at the University of Nebraska College of Law and teaches an introduction to agricultural law course through the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, & Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas. His primary areas of interest are in estate planning, taxation, business organizations, landowner liability, leasing and agritourism.

Anne Hazlett, Chief Counsel: Anne Hazlett has served as Republican Chief Counsel on the Senate Agriculture Committee since 2009. Prior to serving in this role, Anne was appointed as the Director of Agriculture for her home state of Indiana. In addition to this leadership position in state government, Anne also served as Chief of Staff to Indiana Lt. Governor Becky Skillman. Anne worked as legal counsel to the U.S. House and Senate Agriculture Committees during the development of the 2002 and the 2008 Farm Bill. Beyond her government service, Anne has also worked for several agricultural interest organizations, including the Indiana and California Farm Bureaus. Anne graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Communications. In addition, she holds a law degree from the Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis and a Master’s Degree in Agricultural Law from the University of Arkansas School of Law.

Mr. Greg Cole joined the Farm Credit System more than 29 years ago as a student intern with what was then known as the Farm Credit Bank of St. Louis. During his tenure, Greg has served in various roles and was named as President and Chief Executive Officer of AgHeritage Farm Credit Services by the Board of Directors in April 2008. Prior to being named CEO, Greg was the Chief Operating Officer for AgHeritage. Greg earned a Bachelor of Science of Agriculture Business and Economics at Arkansas State University and is a graduate of LSU Graduate School of Banking. AgHeritage Farm Credit Services is a cooperative lending institution with managed assets in excess of \$1.1 Billion that services the financial needs of the agricultural community in 24 counties throughout Central and Southeast Arkansas. AgHeritage Farm Credit Services is part of the national Farm Credit System with assets in excess of \$260 billion and is one of four Farm Credit associations in Arkansas with total assets in excess of \$2.8 billion. Farm Credit is the largest single lender to agriculture in the U.S. and in the state of Arkansas. Its mission is to serve Agriculture and Rural America.

Amanda M. Urbanek is the Deputy Assistant Director for the USDA National Appeals Division’s Southern Region located in Memphis, Tennessee. She has been with the USDA since September 2010. Before joining the National Appeals Division she was an attorney in private practice with the law firm of Daniel Coker Horton & Bell, P.A., in Oxford, Mississippi. She received her B.A. and law degrees from The University of Mississippi (Oxford, MS) and her LL.M. in tax law from Southern Methodist University (Dallas, TX). The majority of her time with NAD is spent speaking with producers and producer groups about appeal rights within the USDA. Her USDA duties also include the supervision of between 7 and 15 Southern Region Administrative Judges. In addition, she is an adjunct professor at The University of Mississippi School of Law where she teaches an Agricultural Law Practicum.

Robert Serio is a partner of Serio & Bishop, a firm located in Clarendon, Arkansas that focuses largely on representation of agricultural and agribusiness clients. Robert represents farm clients throughout the United States, which includes a focus on farm business entity structure, USDA administrative appeals, federal farm programs and other Farm Bill matters, and estate planning. He is a longtime member of the American Agricultural Law Association and recently served as a member of the Association’s Board

of Directors. Robert is a nationally preeminent attorney regarding business entity structure and federal farm program payments in the southeast United States and beyond.

Stan Miller is one of three partners in ILP + McChain Miller Nissman, an international estate planning law firm based in Little Rock, Arkansas and St Croix, USVI. He is a founder and principal of WealthCounsel, LLC, a leading provider of education and document drafting software to attorneys nationwide. He is also a founder and principal of WealthCounsel Advisors Forum, LLC, a national membership organization created for the purpose of improving the quality of interdisciplinary planning between attorneys, financial advisors, and CPA's. Mr. Miller advises clients with respect to a wide range of issues relating to wills and trusts, estate planning, trust administration, corporate and partnership matters, charitable giving, private foundations, supporting organizations, life insurance and taxation. In addition, Mr. Miller counsels clients on matters relating to family owned businesses, including exit and succession planning, governance and control, and the significance of these issues to family relationships.

John G. Dillard is an attorney in the firm of Olsson Frank Weeda Terman Matz, PC. John concentrates his practice on litigation, with an emphasis on agriculture, environmental, and food-related matters. He has represented clients in complex matters, involving Clean Water Act disputes, livestock odor nuisance tort actions, food labeling, GIPSA enforcement, APHIS impoundments, biotech seed patenting, Native American agriculture and food recalls. John also advises clients in the food and agricultural industries regarding the impacts of litigation, government regulations and legislation on their businesses. John also advises clients on legal issues regarding cutting-edge trends in agriculture, including "big data" and agricultural applications for Unmanned Aerial Systems (drones). In addition, he also advises agricultural trade associations on compliance with state and federal antitrust laws. John is a prolific writer on legal issues affecting agriculture. His blog, *Ag in the Courtroom*, is featured on AgWeb.com. Mr. Dillard also writes a column for Farm Journal. John also speaks extensively on agricultural law and policy matters for producer groups and policymakers.