

Ag Technology & The Law: Advancing American Agriculture

Speaker Biographies

Keynote Speaker:

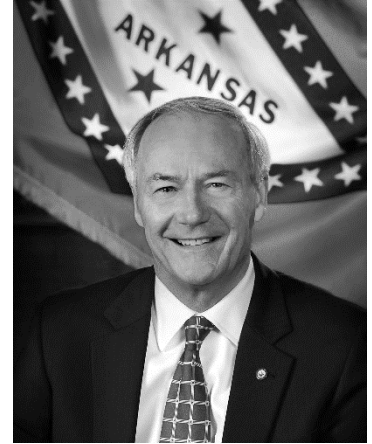
Asa Hutchinson was sworn in as the 46th Governor of Arkansas in January 2015 and immediately set in motion his plan to bring more jobs and economic growth to his native state.

Governor Hutchinson kept a major campaign promise by working to pass the biggest income tax rate cut in state history. His initiative to require computer-coding classes in every public high school makes Arkansas a national leader and signals to businesses everywhere that our students will be prepared for the 21st-century economy.

As part of his strategy to market Arkansas and attract more jobs and businesses to the state, Governor Hutchinson has met with CEOs of major industries across the globe from Silicon Valley to France, Japan, Israel, Germany, China, and Cuba. On the national stage, Governor Hutchinson has been a key leader on energy, security, and education.

The Governor is the former chairman of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC), Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) and the Southern Regional Education Board. Before being elected governor, Asa Hutchinson served as Director of the Drug Enforcement Administration and as the first Undersecretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Voters in Arkansas's Third District also elected him to Congress three times.

A graduate of the University of Arkansas law school, Asa Hutchinson, at age 31, was appointed by President Reagan as the nation's youngest U.S. attorney. He and his wife Susan have been married 44 years. They have four children and six grandchildren.



Karen Ellis Carr is a partner at Arent Fox LLP's Washington, DC office, and her practice focuses on regulatory and litigation matters in the areas of biotechnology, pesticides, food, and agriculture. In particular, she has significant experience with regulatory counseling and litigation under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Plant Protection Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Administrative Procedure Act, and on issues related to advertising and labeling, testing and reporting, food safety, and data use. In addition to representing individual companies, Karen regularly serves as outside counsel to biotechnology, seed, and crop protection industry associations, as well as industry coalition groups. As part of her association and coalition work, Karen handles litigation, coordination of industry regulatory strategy, and federal and state legislative issues.

Brad Deacon is the Director of the Office of Legal Affairs for the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development. Brad has undergraduate and law degrees from Michigan State University, and spent the 1993/4 academic year studying international investment in Germany on a Fulbright grant. Upon returning from Germany, Brad worked on the family farm until May of 1995, when he started working in the Office of the Governor. From 1999 to 2005, Brad served as the Legislative Liaison for the Department of Agriculture, working on passage of legislation including the Food Law and revisions to laws on animal health, pesticides, and consumer protection. In his current position since 2005, he oversees coordination of litigation and legal issues with the Office of the Attorney General, as well as public hearings, Freedom of Information Act compliance, and development of regulations for the Department. He is also the Department's emergency management coordinator, overseeing preparedness and response activities related to the food and agriculture sector. Brad is the Co-Chair of the Michigan Food & Agriculture Protection and Defense Working Group, and represents the Department on multiple homeland security and preparedness boards, including the Michigan Homeland Security Preparedness Committee, the State Animal Response Team Board, and the Multi-State Partnership for

Security in Agriculture. He has been the Principal Investigator on the Food & Drug Administration's Rapid Response Team grant to Michigan since 2008. He also served two years as the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Co-Chair on the national Food & Agriculture Sector Government Coordinating Council. Brad is an adjunct professor at MSU College of Law teaching Agriculture Law and Hospitality Law.

Shannon Ferrell is currently an Associate Professor in the Oklahoma State University Department of Agricultural Economics, where he specializes in Agricultural Law. He grew up on a cattle and wheat operation in Western Oklahoma, and obtained his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Agricultural Economics from OSU before obtaining his Juris Doctorate from the Oklahoma City University School of Law with endorsements in Estate Planning and Business and Financial Services Law. Shannon spent a number of years in private practice, focusing on agricultural, environmental, energy, and corporate law, before joining OSU in the summer of 2007. As a member of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Shannon holds an extension and teaching appointment. Since joining Oklahoma State University, he has provided over 300 extension seminars and workshops throughout North America with a cumulative audience in excess of nearly 19,000 while authoring over fifty extension publications, including serving as lead author on the Farm Transition Workbook. His extension activities encompass all areas of agricultural law, and he also teaches the agricultural law courses at both Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

Chris Fink is the Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Unmanned Vehicle Technologies (UVT), a leading provider of complete sUAS solutions to public safety, energy, utility, oil and gas, education and many other industries. As a former public servant in emergency communications and the fire service, and with over a decade of experience in enterprise information technology management and services, Chris leverages his IT background and passion for public safety and technology to bridge the gap between industry and sUAS.

Teena Gunter is the General Counsel for the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry and has been with the Department for over twenty years. She also serves as the Director for the Agricultural Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program for the agency and the Director of the Commercial Pet Breeders and Animal Shelter Licensing Program. She worked in the water quality programs of the agency and served as the Deputy General Counsel prior to being named General Counsel in 2011. Ms. Gunter holds an LL.M. in Agricultural Law (1997) and a J.D. (1992) from the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville, Arkansas, in addition to a B.A. in English (1989) from Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas. Ms. Gunter was a member of Leadership Oklahoma Class 31 and continues to volunteer with the organization. She is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association and the American Agricultural Law Association. She serves as an officer for the Oklahoma Bar Association's Environmental Law Section.

Mark Henry is rated as AV-Preeminent™ in both legal ability and ethics, and he serves as counsel in complex federal litigation representing universities, agricultural companies, software development companies, retail vendors, and multi-national corporations having intellectual property rights in the United States. He is a registered patent attorney and earned a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in agricultural law. His federal court jury trial litigation experience includes patent, copyright, trademark infringement, trade secret and non-competition enforcement, business and insurance coverage disputes, and education law. Mark teaches agricultural biotechnology law in the LL.M. program at the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He is licensed in AR, OK, MO, KS, TX, and KY.

Kevin Igli is the Senior Vice President and Chief Environmental Officer for Tyson Foods, Inc. Mr. Igli leads a team of more than 400 environmental professionals and oversees the company's environmental compliance, regulatory affairs, and risk management processes in collaboration with all business operating units and enabling support functions (e.g., food safety and quality assurance, engineering, legal, finance, accounting, etc.). Mr. Igli has served in the past as the Vice President for Environmental Affairs for Willamette Industries, Inc., a leading forest and paper company based in Portland, Oregon. In addition, Mr. Igli was Director of Environment, Health and Safety for Packaging Corporation of America and served as Vice President of Environment, Health and Safety for Chemical Waste Management, Inc. He is a graduate of Malone University

in Canton, Ohio, with a BA degree in Biological Sciences. Mr. Igli currently serves on the Boards of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Arkansas, Ozarks Water Watch (OWW), and is affiliated with other professional and trade organizations. Mr. Igli has participated in the recent past with The Sustainability Consortium (co-administered by the University of Arkansas and Arizona State University); as a member of the External Advisory Council for the Iowa State University Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering; the Academic Advisory Board for the University of Arkansas Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department; and the Board of Beaver Watershed Alliance.

Todd Janzen is an attorney and co-founder of Janzen Agricultural Law LLC, a law firm dedicated to serving the needs of farmers, ag technology providers, and agribusinesses. Todd also serves as the Administrator for the Ag Data Transparent project, a national effort to bring transparency to contracts between farmers and technology providers. Todd grew up on a grain and livestock farm in Kansas. Todd is former chair of the American Bar Association's Agricultural Management Committee and the Indiana State Bar Association's Ag Law Section. Todd serves as general counsel to the Indiana Dairy Producers. Todd publishes a nationally recognized ag law and technology blog, the Janzen Ag Law Blog (www.aglaw.us/janzenaglaw). Learn more at www.aglaw.us.

Drew Kershen taught as the Earl Sneed Centennial Professor of Law at the University of Oklahoma from January 1971 until taking emeritus status in June 2012. He is admitted to the Oklahoma Bar and the Bar of the United States Court for the Western District of Oklahoma. Professor Kershen has been a member of the American Agricultural Law Association since 1981. He was on the AALA Board of Directors for 1988-90; President-Elect, 1995; President, 1996; Immediate Past-President, 1997. AALA has twice honored him with the Professional Scholarship Award and the Distinguished Service Award (2000). Professor Kershen concentrated his teaching, research and writing in the areas of agricultural law (with a particular emphasis on agricultural commercial law, agricultural environmental law, and agricultural biotechnology) and water law. Professor Kershen also taught Professional Responsibility (Legal Ethics) from 1974 until 2012. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame (B.A. with high honors, 1966), the University of Texas (J.D. with highest honors, 1968) and Harvard University (LL.M., 1975).

Justin Lavene is the Bureau Chief of the Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Bureau of the Nebraska Attorney General's Office, located in Lincoln, Nebraska. In this position, Mr. Lavene supervises the litigation support for Nebraska state agencies and boards, including the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Agriculture, Game and Parks Commission, Environmental Trust, and State commodity boards. Prior to his appointment as Bureau Chief of the AENR Bureau, Mr. Lavene served as a Section Chief and as Special Counsel to the Attorney General. He focuses his practice primarily on litigation arising from the regulation and administration of the waters of Nebraska, including legal challenges to the constitutionality of Nebraska laws relating to the state's water resources.

Megan E. Lyman serves as Counsel specializing in IP and Regulatory strategy at AgTech Accelerator. She has extensive experience in creating and supporting IP portfolios for entrepreneurs, small businesses, and universities. Starting her legal career at Jones Day, Ms. Lyman practiced in IP litigation and prosecution before opening her own practice in Research Triangle Park, NC. With a focus in the life sciences, Ms. Lyman assisted scientists and business people alike in determining comprehensive IP strategies as well as corporate counsel needs. She has specific expertise in patent landscaping, freedom to operate, patent prosecution, appeal, IPR, and licensing. Ms. Lyman also provides IP diligence, licensing, trademark, and general counsel support. Ms. Lyman has a B.S. in biology from Allegheny College, a Masters in molecular biology from the University of Colorado, and a J.D. from Pepperdine University. She has had multiple speaking engagements on subjects including patentability, obviousness, IPRs, and IP portfolio analysis and creation.

Todd L. Martin has been in agriculture all his life. Growing up on the family dairy farm in south Arkansas, he was no stranger to what it took to be involved in Ag – long hours, hard work, innovation and a love for the land. Todd was educated at the University of Arkansas where he studied Agricultural Economics. After starting his

career with Merrill Lynch in the commodities markets, he landed a position with Ciba-Geigy, a legacy company of Syngenta. Since 1990, Todd has been involved in both domestic and global roles encompassing seeds, traits and crop protection areas of the agriculture sector. He has been involved in sales, marketing and business development on every continent. Many North American independent seed companies knew Todd when he assumed the role of Head, Independent Seeds for Syngenta in 2009 and took responsibility for 150 Agrisure Trait licenses. Retiring from Syngenta after 25 years, Todd returned to Arkansas and lives with his wife, Marti. He currently serves as Chief Executive Officer for the Independent Professional Seed Association, a 220-member trade association with members in 25 states. IPISA spreads the breadth of row crop production focused in Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, Sunflowers, Grain Sorghum and cover crops.

Jennie Nichols is a license attorney and Special Agent in the Federal Bureau of Investigation where she focuses on global theft of U.S. intellectual property, specifically including agricultural technology.

Harrison Pittman serves as Director of the National Agricultural Law Center, headquartered at the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. He 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. Harrison has been with the Center in various capacities since 2001. He has taught at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law as part of the Ben J. Altheimer Distinguished Professorship for Agricultural Law, and has also served as a visiting professor at the Drake University Law School. In addition, he has taught Environmental and Natural Resources Law and Introduction to Agricultural Law in the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, & Life Sciences, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. In that role, he was awarded the 2011-2012 Agricultural Business Club Teaching Award. He is an active member of the American Agricultural Law Association (AALA), and in 2010 became the inaugural recipient of the AALA's Excellence in Agricultural Law award in 2010.

Mark Pryor is the current Chairman and CEO of The Seam, which created the world's first completely online, anonymous exchange for cotton. The company started in 2000, and since then has leveraged its software and application development expertise in agriculture to expand into other commodity segments, including peanuts, cocoa, coffee and grains. Pryor has served in roles at The Seam since its founding, and was Vice President of Information Technology up until 2011. For four years after that, he headed IT for global cotton operations for Noble Group and Noble Agri, then returned to The Seam as Chairman and CEO in August of 2015. In January 2017, Pryor announced that he would be spearheading the company's creation of a blockchain consortium to improve the cotton supply chain. The Seam will be the first-to-market for blockchain trading in the cotton industry, which furthers the company's efforts as it focuses on providing agritech solutions worldwide. He attended Northwest Mississippi Community College and State Technical Institute in Memphis, where he studied computer science.

Clint Quarles grew up on a family tobacco, cattle and grain operation in Scott County, Kentucky. He has served as counsel for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture for the past 12 years covering everything from personnel matters, regulation and statute creation and revisions, to amusement rides for the KDA. Recently, he has focused on drafting for the hemp program, an overhaul of animal health regulations, and the upcoming FSMA implementation. Clint attended the University of Kentucky for undergrad and law school, and has taught a law course in the College of Agriculture there every semester since. Go Cats. Additionally, Clint runs what is a frequent not-for-profit farming operation of about 900 acres of row crops in central Kentucky.

Tom Redick practices international environmental law and liability prevention as Global Environmental Ethics Counsel LLC in Spring Lake MI. His clientele includes corn and soy growers, grain traders and grocery manufacturers, as well as high tech clients. He was the first lawyer to serve as president of the Council for Agricultural Science & Technology from 2010-2013, and served on the ABA Section on Environment, Energy and Resources' Council. He has handled several billion-dollar toxic tort cases include the Syngenta China corn

litigation (2016-2017), the Erin Brockovich cases in 1999 (Aguayo et. al. v PGE) and the first trial of a “GMO” personal injury case in 1993 involving l-tryptophan (Di Rosa v. Showa Denko KK).

Hon. Leslie Rutledge is the 56th Attorney General of Arkansas. She was sworn into office Jan. 13, 2015 and is the first woman and first Republican in Arkansas history to be elected to the office. Rutledge is an Arkansas lawyer who has spent her entire career in public service. A former prosecutor, her law practice focused on Administrative Law, State and Local Government and Election Law. A seventh generation Arkansan, Rutledge grew up on a cattle farm near Batesville and attended public school at the Southside School District in Independence County. From her mother, an elementary school teacher and her father, a lawyer and a judge, Rutledge learned the importance of hard work and service to others. After graduating from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, she proceeded to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) William H. Bowen School of Law. Rutledge is admitted to practice law in Arkansas, Washington D.C. and before the Supreme Court of the United States.

Sam Schatz, Managing Director of Corporate Development for AeroFarms a leading clean-technology company that builds and operates responsible, state-of-the-art indoor vertical farms around the world, enabling local production and transforming agriculture. A Certified B Corporation, AeroFarms has been recognized by Fast Company as one of the World’s Most Innovative Companies for Food and by Inc. as one of the Top 25 Disruptive Companies. Sam joined AeroFarms as the first employee after the company founders in 2012. As Managing Director of Corporate Development, Sam’s main focus is on the company’s expansion to new markets and siting across the globe. Previous experience includes Berlin based Wermuth Asset Management where he advised on investments into privately-held clean technology companies and London-based Active Earth Investments where he led investment into listed mining and mid-cap industrial companies with a focus on socially responsible business practices and solutions. Sam is a recipient of the prestigious Alfa Fellowship and received his Masters in Management from the London School of Economics where he was the President and Founder of the Graduate Management Society and his Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University where he served on the Student Advisory Board to the Columbia University Earth Institute.

Andrew Varcoe (Moderator) is a partner at Boyden Gray & Associates in Washington, D.C. He spends much of his time on issues, projects, and strategic advice to clients relating to problems and opportunities connected to a range of federal agencies; energy, environmental, and natural resources industry matters; international investment issues; and technology and innovation. From 2014 to 2017, Mr. Varcoe was Deputy General Counsel for Agriculture and Environment at the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), the trade association for the biotechnology industry. From 2007 to 2014, Mr. Varcoe served as an attorney in the Office of the General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), where he helped manage the Department’s and its agencies’ nationwide appellate litigation docket. He was previously in private practice, focusing on litigation, at a large law firm in Washington, D.C., and was a law clerk to Justice Francis X. Spina of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and to Judge Edith H. Jones of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He received his J.D. cum laude from Harvard Law School and his A.B. degree with honors from the University of Chicago, where he was Student Ombudsperson and a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Secretary Wes Ward serves as the Secretary of Agriculture for the State of Arkansas. Wes was appointed to the position in March 2015 by Governor Asa Hutchinson. Wes is from the small town of Lake City in Northeast Arkansas and is a graduate of Riverside High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Business with an emphasis in Agricultural Finance from Arkansas State University. Wes earned a law degree and completed the LL.M. program (Master of Laws) in Agricultural and Food Law at the University of Arkansas. Wes has been serving in the United States Marine Corps for nearly 15 years and has completed deployments to Afghanistan and Jordan. He is currently a Captain and a Civil Affairs Officer in the Marine Corps Reserves. Aside from the Marine Corps, Wes has also worked as a Field Coordinator for Congressman Rick Crawford doing agricultural outreach and as an Adjunct Law Professor at the University of Arkansas School of Law.

Eric Williams is a partner in the Indianapolis office of Barnes & Thornburg LLP and a member of the firm's Intellectual Property Law Department. His practice is focused on preparing and prosecuting patent applications through the United States Patent and Trademark Office and counseling clients on the protection of intellectual property. He is a member of the firm's Food, Drug, and Device Law Practice Group, and in this regard has provided advice to multiple clients in the pharmaceutical industry and prepared patent term extension (PTE) applications for FDA-approved products. He is also a member of the firm's Higher Education Practice Group, and has worked extensively to advise both U.S.-based and international universities on protecting their intellectual property. Dr. Williams received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Purdue University in 2003 where he was a member of the Rho Chi Pharmacy Honor Society. At Purdue, he conducted research on the ErbB family of tyrosine kinase receptors. He is the co-author of four journal articles and several symposium abstracts published from this research. He is also a licensed pharmacist in the state of Indiana. Dr. Williams earned his J.D., magna cum laude, in 2009 from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. In 2007, he served as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Matthew Kincaid of the Boone County Superior Court. While in law school, he was an articles editor of the Indiana Law Review and was a member of the Order of the Barristers. His student note, "Patent Reform: The Pharmaceutical Industry Prescription for Post-Grant Opposition and Remedies," was published in the Journal of the Patent and Trademark Office Society.