



Seventh Annual Mid-South Agricultural & Environmental Law Conference

Speaker Biographies

Micah Brown was born and raised in Benton, Arkansas. Growing up, his family owned a small farm which led to his interest in cattle production. He attended the University of Central Arkansas where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. After graduating from UCA in 2016, he enrolled in law school and graduated cum laude with his Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas School of Law. While in law school, Micah worked as a law clerk for the Office of the Arkansas Attorney General in the Consumer Protection Division. During his time clerking for the Attorney General, he worked on various agricultural, environmental, and public utility law issues. During his second year of law school, he began working at the Center as a research fellow. As a research fellow, Micah primarily worked on tracking and analyzing agricultural and environmental federal litigation. After graduating law school in May of 2020, he joined the Center full-time. At the Center, his primary areas of research are finance and credit, commercial transactions, and secured transactions. He is licensed to practice law in the state of Arkansas.

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.

Paul Keith is a partner at Gibson & Keith PLLC in Monticello, AR, as well as the current President of the Arkansas Bar Association. He is licensed to practice before all State and Federal Courts in Arkansas, and the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis, and has been admitted pro hac vice before the Courts of other States. He has served as a Special Associate Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court. He has also been appointed by the Governor of Arkansas to serve on the Legislative Task Force on Private Property rights. In 2018, he was appointed to the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct. In addition to his private practice, he presently serves as City Attorney for Hamburg, Arkansas having been elected to that office in 2002. Mr. Keith has conducted seminars for the Arkansas Association of Special Education Administrators. Mr. Keith has been active in the state bar, most recently serving as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Arkansas Bar Association and previously serving as chair of the Association's Annual Meeting. He also has been active in community affairs by serving as member and president the Hamburg School Board. He is the elected City Attorney for the City of Hamburg.

Mark Daniel Maloney is a member of Blackburn, Maloney and Schuppert in Decatur, AL. He provides taxation and estate planning services to a wide array of businesses and individual clients. A significant portion of Mr. Maloney's practice is devoted to agricultural law, in which he advises farmers, landowners, and related agricultural businesses. The agricultural legal services he provides includes advising for federal farm program matters, income and estate taxation, and liability issues, as well as estate planning for farmers and large landowners. Mr. Maloney brings a unique perspective to his agriculture law practice, having grown up on a

farm in Illinois. As part of his agricultural law services, Mr. Maloney regularly designs business structures for farming operations and prepares farm operating plans for filing with the Farm Service Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He also represents farmers and farming operations in administrative hearings before the Farm Service Agency and the National Appeals Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mr. Maloney is heavily involved in Community and Civic activities, including leadership at all levels of Rotary International (including RI President, 2019-2020).

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.

Brigit Rollins began her life in Sonoma County, in the heart of California's wine country. Growing up, she was surrounded by small farms, dairies, and wineries, which ultimately led to a passion for agriculture and the environment. She attended Sonoma State University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in environmental studies, and a minor in studio arts. While at Sonoma State, Brigit studied different types of agricultural methods and how those methods could be used to promote environmental sustainability. After graduating from Sonoma State in 2015, she started as a law student at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon. While at Lewis & Clark, she worked as a student clerk for the Western Resources Legal Center, where she worked on cases assisting small ranches, farms, and municipalities. During her time at Lewis & Clark, she also interned with the California Farm Bureau Federation, and worked as a law clerk for the Sacramento-based environmental law firm Somach Simmons & Dunn. While at the California Farm Bureau, Brigit focused on Environmental Species Act issues and water law issues, as well as issues specific to California. While at Somach Simmons & Dunn, Brigit expanded her work on water law and participated in work involving federal Indian law. On campus, Brigit was on the board of Lewis & Clark's Food & Ag Law Society and served as a student member of the ABA Public Lands Committee. In 2019, Brigit graduated from Lewis & Clark and joined the Center full-time. At the Center, her primary area of research and scholarship is environmental law as it intersects with agriculture. She maintains an interest in promoting sustainability and environmental health through agriculture and resource use. She is licensed to practice law in Oregon.

Kristine Tidgren is an adjunct assistant professor in the Agricultural Education & Studies Department and the director for the Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation. Kristine's work focuses on studying and interpreting laws impacting the agricultural industry. In particular, she focuses on agricultural taxation. Since joining CALT in 2013, Kristine has written hundreds of articles and blogposts to keep tax professionals, practicing attorneys, producers, and agribusiness professionals informed about legal developments impacting their business. She also writes technical chapters for the National Income Tax Workbook and regular articles for farm publications. In addition to her writing, Kristine speaks to many professionals and producers each year regarding tax and agricultural law topics. She also plans and provides instruction for CALT-hosted seminars, including the annual federal income tax schools. Kristine teaches AgEds 451, a four-credit agricultural law class to upper-level undergraduate students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She also regularly collaborates with other agricultural law and tax professionals throughout the country, including those from

the Rural Tax Education Committee, the American Agricultural Law Association, and the Land Grant University Tax Education Foundation. Kristine is licensed to practice law in Iowa and Missouri and is a member of the Iowa Bar Association. Before coming to ISU, Kristine worked for a legal publishing company and as a practicing attorney. She received her J.D., Order of the Coif, from the University of Texas at Austin and her B.A. in journalism from Iowa State. She grew up on a farm in west central Iowa.

Stephen Vaden serves as a judge on the United States Court of International Trade following his confirmation by the United States Senate on November 18, 2020, and appointment by President Donald J. Trump on December 21, 2020. Before joining the court, Stephen Vaden was the General Counsel for the United States Department of Agriculture. In the private sector, he previously practiced law at Patton Boggs and Jones Day, specializing in litigation at the appellate level, election law, and administrative law. Vaden has a B.A. from Vanderbilt University and a J.D. from Yale Law School. He clerked for Julia Smith Gibbons of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and for Samuel H. Mays Jr. of the United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee.

David (Max) Williamson has been recognized by Chambers and Super Lawyers as an outstanding lawyer in environmental law and climate change policy. He is a past co-chair of the D.C. Bar Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Section and serves on the boards of various charitable organizations, including the D.C. Environmental Film Festival and the oceans advocacy network Sailors for the Sea, and as general counsel to the scholarship charity Haitian Education and Leadership Program. Max holds B.A. from Yale University and received his J.D. magna cum laude and Master's degree summa cum laude from Vermont Law School specializing in environmental law and policy.