



Expanding Partners & Outreach: Strategic Update on the Future of the National Agricultural Law Center

Harrison M. Pittman
Director

Outline

- The National Agricultural Law Center: Background
- NALC Outreach & Partners
- Looking ahead: expanding partnerships and outreach throughout the United States



The National Agricultural Law Center

- Created by Congress in 1987 (original grant executed 4/13/1988)
- We are the nation's leading source for agricultural and food law research and information
 - www.nationalaglawcenter.org
- Objective/neutral, non-partisan research and information regarding laws and regulations affecting agriculture
 - What the law is, rather than what the law should be
- Stakeholder-driven
- The only institution of its kind in the United States

NALC: In The Beginning, April 1988

- “The center will provide timely, neutral international, state and federal legal research and information to practicing attorneys, farm and commodity groups, farmers’ aid organizations, state and federal agencies, members of Congress and others who are helping farmers and farmer-related industries deal with the crushing legal challenges facing them today.”
- “To establish a national clearing house for systematic collection, indexing, and publication of agricultural law information.”
- “To coordinate with the Cooperative Extension Service in providing information to producers in planning programs on agricultural law issues.”
- “To provide support to educational programs in agricultural law in the land grant universities and in other institutions of higher education.”
- “To coordinate with national organizations, such as the American Agricultural Law Association, in the dissemination of information on agricultural law matters to members and other groups.”



NALC: Stakeholder-Driven

- Producers
- Agribusinesses
- Commodity groups/trade associations
- Federal and state policymakers/lawmakers
- Congressional staff
- Cooperative Extension Service professionals
- Input suppliers
- Academics
- Students
- Lenders
- Farm managers and rural appraisers
- Public and private sector attorneys/law firms
- Media
- Government affairs/lobbying firms



NALC: Examples of Issues Covered

- Article 9, bankruptcy, ag liens
- Foreign ownership of agricultural land
- Farm Bills
- WOTUS
- Prop 12
- Endangered Species Act
- Industrial hemp/cannabis
- Carbon contracts
- Solar leases
- Federal and state checkoff programs
- NRCS wetlands compliance
- States' meat processing laws
- Civil rights issues at USDA
- Federal crop insurance
- Heirs' Property
- Pesticide legislation, litigation, and regulation
- Long-term healthcare for farming operations
- Hunting leases
- Etc.



NALC: Current Legal Staff



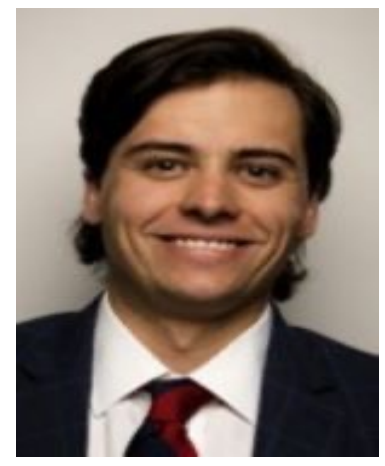
Elizabeth Rumley
Senior Staff Attorney



Rusty Rumley
Senior Staff Attorney



Brigit Rollins
Staff Attorney
(Environmental Law)



Micah Brown
Staff Attorney
(Finance & Credit)



NALC: Communications & Website Staff



Drew Viguet
Communications &
Special Projects
Coordinator

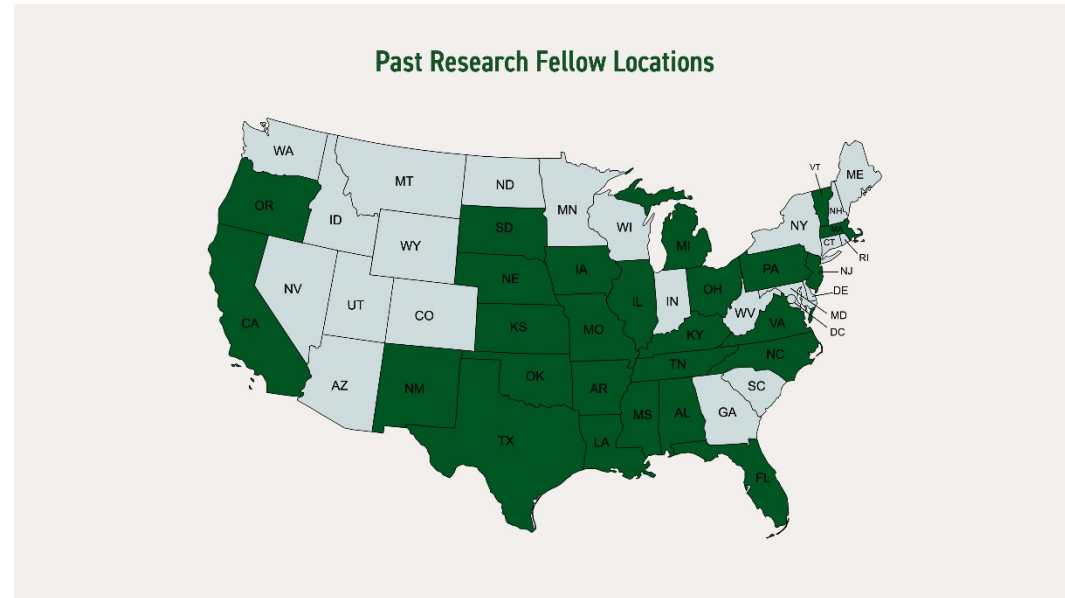


Ramie Persons
Website Editor



NALC: Research Fellows

- Law students from throughout the United States
- Approximately 20 semester-to-semester
- Compensation and/or academic credit
- Will advertise for next round of RF applicants soon



Outline

- ✓✓✓ The National Agricultural Law Center: Background ✓✓✓
- NALC Outreach & Partners
- Looking ahead: expanding partnerships and outreach throughout the United States
 - Specifically, including focus on students at pre-college, undergraduate, and graduate/law school level
 - Public and private sector



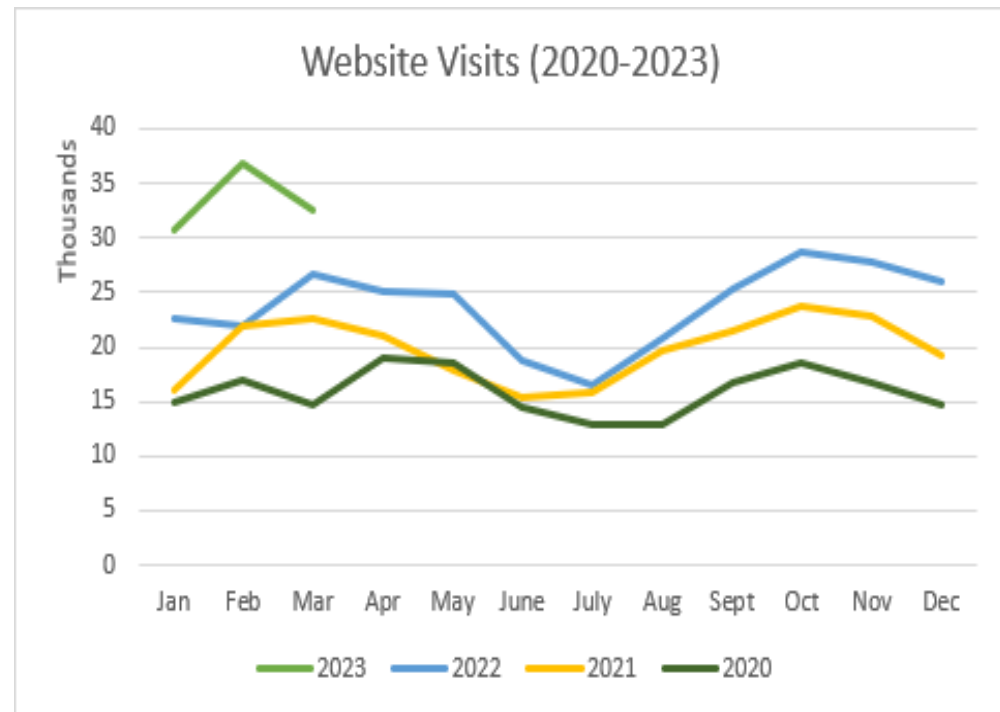
NALC: Specific Types of Outreach

- NALC website (www.nationalaglawcenter.org)
- Publications – one to two weekly, in general
- Presentations (in-person and webinars)
- One-on-one/small audience
- NALC-hosted conferences
- Quarterly e-Newsletter
- The Feed
- Social media
 - Facebook (@nataglaw)
 - Twitter (@nataglaw)
 - LinkedIn



NALC: Website

- Comprehensive collection of ag & food law research and information
- Designed with goal of being usable to non-attorneys and attorneys, non-experts and experts
- 20% gain year-over-year
- 2022 average = approx. 780 daily visits
- www.nationalaglawcenter.org



NALC: Publications

- NALC Staff Attorneys publish weekly, generally
- Outside subject matter experts
 - Interested in co-authorship
 - Attorneys
 - Cooperative Extension Service factsheets
 - Land grant university and other university faculty
 - Commissioning articles, i.e.:
 - Practitioner's Guide to Litigating Federal Crop Insurance Claims
 - USDA National Appeals Division Practice and Procedure
 - Public lands issues
 - Permanent crops/specialty crops



NALC: Publications



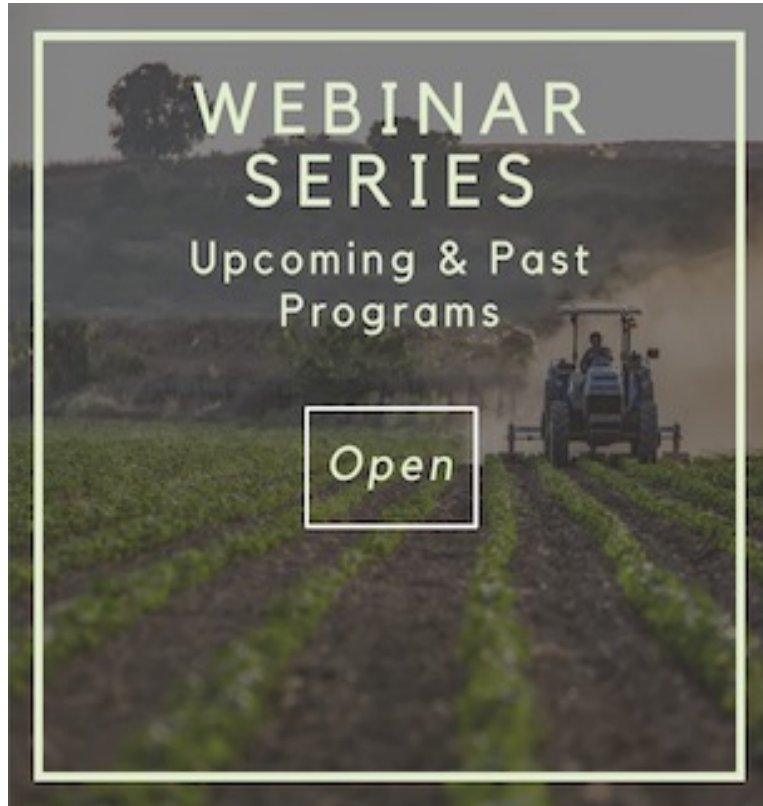
NALC Presentations

- County, state, regional conservation districts
- Congressional committee staff
- Legal conferences
- Farm managers and rural appraisers
- Women in Agriculture
- American Society of Agricultural Consultants
- USDA Ag Outlook
- Farm Bureau meetings (county level on up)
- State Agribusiness associations
- Research and promotion boards
- Commodity group/trade association meetings
- Etc.

- **We always try to find a way to say “yes”**



NALC: Webinars



- Every Third Wednesday (minimum)
- Subscribe for webinar notices
- All archived
- Typically scheduled three months in advance



NALC: The Feed

- For non-attorneys and attorneys
- Very brief updates with links to additional NALC resources
- Issues twice monthly (except December)



Upcoming Conferences: Western & Mid-South (livestream available)

The National Agricultural Law Center presents

The Inaugural
**Western
Agricultural & Environmental
Law Conference**

May 4-5, 2023
Reno, Nevada
Peppermill Resort Spa Casino



University of Arkansas System

The 10th Annual
**Mid-South
Agricultural & Environmental
Law Conference**

June 8-9, 2023
Memphis, Tennessee
University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law



University of Arkansas System

- Net proceeds devoted to supporting ag industry in line with furthering NALC's national research and information mission
 - Western-focused partners and outreach
 - Student scholarships
- Designed for attorneys and non-attorney ag professionals (government affairs/lobbyists, lenders, farm managers and rural appraisers, students, etc.)



Upcoming Conferences: Western & Mid-South (livestream available)

Western Agricultural & Environmental Law Conference: 2023 Sponsors

Diamond



DOWNEY BRAND

Gold



PERKINScoie
COUNSEL TO GREAT COMPANIES



Silver



KEMP | JONES
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Schwabe



- Western “Early Bird” deadline is April 18
 - 3 hours of free online CLE, including 1 Ethics
- Block room rate expires April 11



NALC: Partners



SULC

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
L A W C E N T E R

Agricultural Law Institute for Underrepresented and
Underserved Communities



NALC Partners



USDA Office of General Counsel



NALC Partners



**Western Resources
Legal Center**



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



Outline

- ✓✓✓ The National Agricultural Law Center: Background ✓✓✓
- ✓✓✓ NALC Outreach & Partners ✓✓✓
- Looking ahead: expanding partnerships and outreach throughout the United States



Grants/Extramural Funding

- We're interested in helping support grant opportunities
- Can often partner without seeking much, if any, funding
- Recent examples:
 - Specialty Crop Block Grant
 - Student-focused USDA proposal



NALC Bridges Initiative: Building Connections to Agricultural & Food Law



- Student-focused, public-private partnership
- Offers professional development, networking, and increased legal knowledge for students interested in ag & food law issues and/or careers
- Goal is to provide legal-focused talent pipeline into the ag and food industries while furthering the NALC's national mission
- Includes specific focus on minority students and others traditionally underrepresented in the ag and food law fields



“Growing Careers” Webinars for Law Students



Phyllis Marquitz
Vice President, Global
Regulatory & Scientific
Affairs at Archer Daniels
Midland



Caleb Pearson
Senior Counsel, BASF



Ebony Woodruff
Ebony Woodruff, APLC



Agricultural Law Courses/Student Groups

- Supporting efforts to initiate agricultural law courses around the country
- Focus is on providing curriculum and training to attorneys to teach as adjuncts
- If you're interested, can contact hmpittm@uark.edu



“Growing Careers” Webinars for Undergraduate Students



Marla Dickerson,
Associate Vice
Chancellor of
Innovation and Strategic
Partnerships and
Initiatives, Southern
University Law Center



Alabama Ag Law Pathways Program

- 3-year Program
- NALC, Faulkner Law School, Alabama Farmers Federation (ALFA), and Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries
- Agricultural Law course, co-teaching with John Allen Nichols (ALFA)



“Growing Careers” Webinars for Undergraduate Students



Rusty Rumley



Jana Caracciolo



Kellie Adesina
Director, Global
Government Affairs,
Kraft Heinz Company

“Growing Careers in Agricultural & Food Law: A Webinar for 1890s Institutions”



“Growing Careers” Undergraduate Focus

- Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) training (2022)
- Establishment of undergraduate-level ag and food law student groups
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)/NASDA Foundation
 - Annual Meeting
 - Winter Policy Conference
- Other student groups
- Discussion meets/student policy presentations



“Growing Careers” Webinar: Pre-College Students



- Pat Dillon
- Jill Dillon
- Partnered with Arkansas 4-H
- An area where we could use all the help we can get!



Scholarships



The collage features three distinct images. On the left, a man and a woman stand outdoors near a boat with a red and white sail. The man is wearing a dark jacket, and the woman is wearing a colorful scarf and a dark jacket. In the center, a close-up portrait of a man wearing a dark baseball cap and a dark t-shirt with 'Village Farm' visible. On the right, a man wearing a brown jacket and a white cap is hiking on a rocky trail, carrying a large backpack. The background shows a forest and a body of water.

 The Scott E. Fancher Agricultural Law Scholarship 

U of A
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System



NALC Requests For Proposals

Past/Current Examples

- Essentially are “mini-grants”
- The Veterinary Feed Directive Rules and How They Will Affect You (2016)
- Assist minority, small, and limited-resource farmers understand their legal responsibility and rights pertaining to land, business, and heirs
 - Engaging with attorneys as part of project
- Digesting the FSMA Animal Feed Rule

Upcoming (potential)

- Western-state specific issues
 - Public lands
 - Wine
 - Ag labor/immigration
- International Ag Trade
- Water law/rights
- State bar association ag/ag-related sections



NALC Western Ag Industry Advisory Board

THE WESTERN AG INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD



Lucas Babycos



Christine Birdsong



Marisa Bocci



Karen Budd-Falen



Janie Gatzman



Joe Hobson



Ryan Jacobsen



Dennis Nuxoll



Tom O'Brien



Skye Root



George Soares



Jeff Witte



The National Agricultural Law Center



State Bar Associations/Law Sections

- Existing sections holding CLE
- Can help create/start new sections
- Can provide speakers and potentially some funding support



Upcoming Survey

- Will launch a survey by end of May 2023
- Seeking input on types of resources to develop
- Will also seek input on NALC website functionality, improvements, what works well and what does not work well enough



Outline

- ✓✓✓ The National Agricultural Law Center: Background ✓✓✓
- ✓✓✓ NALC Outreach & Partners ✓✓✓
- ✓✓✓ Looking ahead: expanding partnerships and outreach throughout the United States ✓✓✓



Comments/Questions



Harrison Pittman

(479) 575-7640

hmpittm@uark.edu

www.nationalaglawcenter.org



@nataglaw

