



Tenth Annual Mid-South Agricultural & Environmental Law Conference

Speaker Biographies

Tim Bishop is a partner at Mayer Brown's Supreme Court & Appellate Litigation practice focusing on environmental law. Tim successfully argued Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County in the Supreme Court, in which the Court struck down the Corps of Engineer's "migratory bird rule." More recently, in *National Ass'n of Manufacturers v. Dep't of Defense*, he scored a unanimous victory that solves a jurisdictional debate that has hindered Clean-Water-Act litigants for decades. In *Weyerhaeuser v. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service* he obtained a unanimous ruling that struck down an overbroad interpretation of "critical habitat" under the Endangered Species Act. In 2022, the Supreme Court agreed to hear his clients' Commerce Clause challenge to a California law prohibiting sales of pork that does not comply with California's sow-housing requirements. One leading environmental law professor and practitioner has written that Tim is "industry's leading Supreme Court lawyer in environmental cases."

Parish Braden A 2005 graduate of Virginia Tech, Parish currently serves as Staff Director for the House Committee on Agriculture in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Committee has jurisdiction over federal agriculture policy, rural development programs, nutrition policy, forestry, and general oversight responsibility of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). In his current position, Parish is responsible for managing 34 professional policy, communications, and legal staff members. He has more than a decade of service in the U.S. House, having also previously served as staff director at the House Committee on Natural Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Interior and federal environmental laws. Parish began work on Capitol Hill in 2006 serving as legislative assistant to then-Rep. Wayne Gilchrest of Maryland.

Fitzhugh Elder IV serves as Staff Director, Ranking Member, for the United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Prior to that role, Mr. Elder serves as Staff Director for the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. He has nearly two decades of experience of Senate service, including as Staff Director for the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies; Deputy Staff Director for the Senate Committee on Appropriations; Republican clerk for the Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies; and in the office of former Senator Robert Bennett (R-UT).

Tiffany Dowell Lashmet has served as an Agricultural Law Specialist for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service since 2013. Tiffany's work focuses on legal issues impacting Texas landowners and agricultural producers including leases, water law, oil and gas law, pipeline easement negotiation, estate planning, and landowner liability. She travels the state speaking at various meetings and conferences on these issues and has published several law review articles, extension fact sheets, magazine articles, and newspaper articles on these topics.

Ted McKinney serves as the Chief Executive Officer of NASDA, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, a position to which he was named in September 2021. Prior to NASDA, he was also the first U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs from 2017-2021. In that role, Under Secretary McKinney led the development and implementation of the Department's trade policy, oversaw and facilitated foreign market access, and promoted opportunities for U.S. agriculture through various trade programs and high-level government negotiations. He also oversaw the U.S. Codex Alimentarius staff and functions.

McKinney grew up on a family grain and livestock farm in Tipton, Indiana, and was a 10-year 4-H member and an Indiana State FFA Officer. He graduated from Purdue University with a B.S. degree in Agricultural Economics in 1981, at which time he received the G.A. Ross Award as the outstanding University senior male graduate. In 2002, he was named a Purdue Agriculture Distinguished Alumnus and, in 2004, received an FFA Honorary American degree. He has also received the Sagamore of the Wabash Award from Indiana Governors Pence and Holcomb. He and his wife, Julie, have three children and six grandchildren, and reside in Alexandria, Virginia.

Robert Moore is an attorney and research specialist with the Agriculture and Resource Law Program at the Ohio State University. Prior to joining OSU, Robert and his wife, Kelly, owned Wright & Moore Law Co. LPA, a law firm in Delaware, Ohio focusing on legal services for farmers and landowners. Robert continues to provide legal services to clients on a part-time basis. Robert was raised on a dairy farm in Coshocton County, Ohio. He attended Ohio State University receiving a B.S. in Dairy Science and an M.S. in Agricultural Economics. He received his J.D. from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio where he graduated cum laude.

Robert began his career as a county Extension Educator with Ohio State University Extension. He later worked in the Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics where he worked on farm budgeting, custom rate surveys, and other farm management related work. Robert left OSU Extension in 2004 to enter private practice. After 18 years of private practice, he rejoined OSU Extension. Robert's area of focus is farm succession planning, business entities and taxation. Over the years, Robert has worked with many farm families in designing and implementing succession plans for their family farming operations. He is excited to bring his experience to the Agriculture and Resources Program and looks forward to providing information and resources to farm families.

Clark Ogilvie is Special Counsel on the Democratic staff of the House Committee on Agriculture. This is his third return to the Committee having served from 2005—2014 and from 2018—2019. During that time, he has worked on the past three Farm Bills, the Dodd-Frank Act, and the 2008 reauthorization of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). In addition to working on the Committee, Clark Ogilvie served for 2 ½ years as Chief of Staff of the CFTC and two years as General Counsel for the Farm Credit Administration. He has a law degree from George Washington University and a B.A. from Rhodes College.

Jesse Richardson, Jr. is a Professor of Law and the Lead Land Use Attorney at the Land Use and Sustainable Development Law Clinic at the West Virginia University College of Law where his research and experience focuses on agricultural law, land use law, and water law. He holds a B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural and Applied Economics from Virginia Tech and J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law. Jesse serves on the Board of the Water Well Trust, is past President of the American Agricultural Law Association and has served on the Virginia Water Policy Technical Advisory Committee and on the boards of the Universities Council on Water Resources, National Cave and Karst Research Institute, and Virginia Cave Board.

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.

Rusty Rumley was born and raised on a family farm in Cogar, Oklahoma. 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. After law school, Rusty earned his LL.M in Agricultural Law at the University of Arkansas. He is licensed to practice law in the states of Oklahoma and Michigan.

Rusty has published law review articles discussing the future application of special use valuation for inherited farmland, "right to farm" statutes, and the enforcement of animal cruelty statutes by private organizations. He has also written on landowner liability, agritourism, food labeling, local food production, business organizations, crop insurance, estate planning, leasing, and other land use topics in his work at the Center. Further, Rusty presents around the country to producer, consumer, extension, industry and legal groups on an array of topics.

Josh Tonsager is Senior Professional Staff for U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) handling commodity programs and crop insurance policy. Previously he worked for the House Agriculture Committee under Chairman then Ranking Member David Scott (D-GA), was Vice President of Policy and Communications for the National Association of Wheat Growers, and was a Legislative Assistant to former U.S. Senator Tim Johnson of South Dakota. He began his career with the National Farmers Union after receiving his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Economics and Political Science from the University of South Dakota. He comes from a family farm near Oldham, SD.

Wes Ward (Moderator) is serving as the 3rd Secretary of Agriculture for the State of Arkansas. He was first appointed to the position in 2015 by Governor Asa Hutchinson and reappointed in 2023 by Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

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 has also earned a law degree (JD), a Master of Laws degree (LL.M.) in Agricultural and Food Law, and a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Arkansas.

Wes has been serving in the United States Marine Corps for over 22 years and has completed deployments and exercises in Afghanistan, Jordan, and Japan. He is currently serving in the Marine Corps Reserves as a Detachment Commander with the 1st Civil Affairs Group in Camp Pendleton, California.

Ebony Woodruff is a first-generation attorney. She has more than a decade of experience as a legal entrepreneur and practicing attorney. She earned a Master of Laws in Agricultural and Food Law from the University of Arkansas School of Law, a Juris Doctor from the Southern University Law Center, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Louisiana State University. Her law practice focuses on estate planning, heirs' property, and agricultural law. Ebony is a former Louisiana State Representative. She represented District 87 from 2013 to 2016. Ebony is the first and only woman to hold that position. Currently, she is a Land Retention and Advocacy Attorney with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/ Land Assistance Fund; and serves on the New Orleans Food Policy Action Council Board of Directors.

Sara Wyant (Moderator) is an award-winning agricultural journalist, entrepreneur and founder of Agri-Pulse Communications Inc., a unique digital media firm she launched in 2004 to focus on farm, food and rural policy issues. As Editor-in-Chief, she oversees the nation's largest team of agricultural journalists covering Capitol Hill and Sacramento, California.

An investigative reporter who has written many groundbreaking stories, Wyant has covered almost every farm and food policy debate since the 1980s. She is well-recognized on Capitol Hill, as well as by farm, ranch and commodity associations across the country, as a veteran journalist and sought-after speaker.