



11th Annual Mid-South Agricultural & Environmental Law Conference

Speaker Biographies

Elise Alexander was raised on a farm and cattle ranch in Crawford County, Arkansas. Since 2003 she has served as President of a large family office, managing several companies and serving as legal counsel. From 2003 to 2012 Elise served as VP & General Counsel for T.A.W., Inc., an oilfield services company with \$200 million in revenue across multiple states. Prior to T.A.W., Elise worked for several years as an associate at the Orrick firm in Silicon Valley in the corporate division forming and advising startups and public companies regarding securities compliance, mergers & acquisitions, and initial public offerings. Before her time with Orrick, Elise worked as in-house corporate counsel for Varian Associates, Inc. in Palo Alto, California. Elise obtained a B.S. in Political Science from Texas A&M University in 1989 and a J.D. from Pepperdine University School of Law in 1992.

Robert Frommer serves as a senior attorney with the Institute for Justice. He joined the Institute in August 2008 and litigates cases both to secure individuals' rights to private property and to protect free speech.

Robert is the Director of the Institute for Justice's Project on the Fourth Amendment, which litigates to increase search and seizure protections for all Americans. As part of that effort, Robert is counsel in *Snitko v. FBI*, a case that challenges the FBI's blanket search of hundreds of safe-deposit boxes based on a warrant it obtained with a ruse. He also is fighting in state courts to roll back the federal "open fields doctrine," which wrongfully denies people constitutional protection in most private land in this country.

Robert is also part of the Institute for Justice's efforts to end civil forfeiture. He was lead counsel on *Sourovellis v. City of Philadelphia*, a case in which IJ brought an end to Philadelphia's "forfeiture machine" and secured millions of dollars in restitution for its victims.

Connie Haden practices in the areas of estate and business planning, trust and probate administration, elder law, and tax-exempt and non-profit organizations. Prior to starting The Law Firm of Haden & Colbert, she practiced with Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin LLP, specializing in complex estate, business, gift, and tax planning issues. She then served as independent counsel for Graves Bartle Marcus & Garrett LLC in Kansas City where she continued her practice in estate planning and trust and estate administration and expanded her practice into the areas of non-profit organizations and elder law.

Connie is licensed to practice in Missouri and Kansas and is a member of the Mid-Missouri Estate Planning Counsel, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), the Missouri Chapter of NAELA, and the Boone County Bar Association.

She received her J.D. from the University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Law where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the UMKC Law Review and was a member of the Christian Legal Society, the Federalist Society, the Student Bar Association, and the Order of the Bench and Robe. Connie graduated summa cum laude from the University of Missouri with degrees in Agriculture Business Management and Business Economics.

Danielle Greer Lake is the Deputy Regional Director for the National Appeals Division. She graduated from Whitehaven High School in Memphis, TN and, thereafter, the University of TN (UT), Knoxville, with her undergraduate (2006) and law (2011) degrees. While earning her juris doctor from UT, she served as the Executive Editor of the Tennessee Journal of Law and Policy and as President of the Black Law Students'

Association. Danielle is licensed to practice law in Tennessee and, as of November 2023, to argue before the Supreme Court of the United States. Prior to becoming NAD-South's DRD, she was employed with Division of TennCare for eight years, initially serving as an Administrative Judge and then, the latter six, as an Administrative Judge Supervisor. She credits her strong legal writing foundation to years of post-graduate experience as a law clerk for the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, under Judge D. Kelly Thomas, Jr. Danielle and her spouse, Brandon Lake, have two children: Greer Nathaniel Lake (4) and Ellarie Ariel Lake (2).

Ben Maddox is the VP of Business Development for AcreTrader. Ben is currently an Accredited Farm Manager as well as a Broker licensed in the state of Arkansas. Prior to AcreTrader, he worked as an analyst in international agriculture with Heifer International. His projects covered multiple continents and were focused on supporting farmer cooperatives and agribusinesses. He completed his MBA at the Sam M. Walton College of Business and is a member of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers as well as the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association.

Ellen Murphy teaches legal ethics, including Professional Responsibility courses for JD students and Unauthorized Practice of Law courses for nonlawyer professionals. She is a co-author on several legal ethics texts, a member of the NC State Bar Ethics Committee, and a subject-matter expert for the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam. She also serves on the ABA's Standing Committee for the Public Protection in the Provision of Legal Services.

Ellen served as Wake Forest Law's first Associate Dean of Strategic Initiatives and first Assistant Dean of Instructional Technologies and Design. An online teacher since 2009, she was the chief administrative and curricular architect of the school's online Master of Studies in Law, the law school's first fully online degree.

A native of Eastern North Carolina, Ellen has a BS in Agribusiness and is getting an LLM in Agriculture and Food Law at the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville). She is a board member at Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture (BRWIA), a nonprofit that serves the North Carolina High Country.

Harrison Pittman is the director of the National Agricultural Law Center. 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. Harrison has worked at the NALC since 2001. During that time, his title and job duties have spanned the range of graduate assistant, staff attorney, co-director, interim director and currently, director; in which capacity he has served since 2007.

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.

Brigit Rollins is a staff attorney at the National Agricultural Law Center. At the NALC, 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.

Brigit earned her B.A. in environmental studies with a minor in studio arts from Sonoma State University and her J.D. from Lewis & Clark Law School. She began her work at the NALC as a research fellow during her second year of law school. As a research fellow, Brigit worked on a wide variety of agricultural law topics

ranging from liability issues to the new frontier of lab-grown meat. After graduating from Lewis & Clark in 2019, Brigit joined the NALC full-time. She is licensed to practice law in Oregon.

Elizabeth Rumley is a senior staff attorney at the National Agricultural Law Center. At the NALC, her primary research and scholarship focus is on legal issues in animal agriculture, and she frequently lectures on those issues and others to audiences nationwide. She has co-taught a course titled “Animals and Agricultural Production, Law and Policy” several times at the University of Nebraska College of Law and the University of Oklahoma College of Law, and has developed and teaches a graduate/undergraduate course discussing legal issues in animal agriculture at the University of Arkansas.

Additionally, she teaches Environmental Law through the Bumpers College at the University of Arkansas. She is licensed to practice law in Michigan, Ohio, and Oklahoma. She earned her B.A. from Michigan State University, her J.D. cum laude from the University of Toledo College of Law, and her L.L.M. in Agricultural Law from the University of Arkansas School of Law.

Rod Snyder was appointed Senior Advisor for Agriculture to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in October 2021. He is recognized for his nearly two decades of leadership at the intersection of agricultural and environmental policy.

From 2014-2021, Snyder served as president of Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, which is the largest multi-stakeholder initiative working to advance the sustainability of commodity crop farming in the United States. In this role, he forged science-based consensus among diverse stakeholders across the food and agriculture value chain on complex issues such as climate change, water quality, biodiversity, and pest management. In 2015, Snyder co-founded the Sustainable Agriculture Summit, which has grown to be the largest and most prominent annual sustainable agriculture conference in North America.

Prior to his time at Field to Market, Snyder held positions as Public Policy Director for the National Corn Growers Association and Government Affairs Leader for CropLife America. He has been a longtime champion of agricultural solutions to climate change and has on two occasions organized farmer delegations to participate in UN Climate Summits in Paris and Copenhagen.

Snyder holds a B.A. in Political Science from Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania. He resides on his family farm in Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia.

Joshua Windham is an attorney at the Institute for Justice and IJ’s current Elfie Gallun Fellow in Freedom and the Constitution.

Josh joined IJ’s headquarters office in 2016. He received his law degree earlier that year from the University of North Carolina School of Law, where he served as president of the Federalist Society and externed for the Honorable Robert Numbers in the Eastern District of North Carolina. Before that, Josh graduated summa cum laude from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Arts in History.

Since starting at IJ, Josh has litigated in defense of economic liberty and property rights, with a focus on state constitutions. In 2020, he secured a major Pennsylvania Supreme Court victory holding that the Pennsylvania Constitution demands greater protection for economic liberty than the U.S. Constitution. In 2022, he convinced a state trial court that the Tennessee Constitution offers more protection from warrantless searches of private land than the U.S. Constitution. Josh is also the co-director of IJ’s Project on the Fourth Amendment, which aims to bolster all Americans’ right to be secure in their persons and property.

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.

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.