

**For immediate release**  
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Jeff Peterson  
*President-Elect*



Brianna Schroeder  
*Director*



Brandon Davis  
*Director*

*Individual and other photos available upon request*

### **American Ag Law Association announces new board members**

The American Agricultural Law Association welcomed its new president-elect, Jeff Peterson of Minnesota, and directors, Brianna Schroeder of Indiana and Brandon Davis of Louisiana, during its annual educational symposium, Nov. 4–6 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

They join the association’s 2021–2022 president, Tyler Buswell of Utah; immediate past president, Pat Dillon of Iowa; and returning directors Kimberly Bousquet of Missouri, Joe Miller of Indiana, Ashley Ellixson of Arizona and Paul Goeringer of Maryland on the board of directors.

Finishing their service on the board were 2020–2021 past president Mike Traxinger of South Dakota and retiring directors Jake Parker of North Carolina and Ross Pifer of Pennsylvania.

“Thank you to all who submitted nominations this year for AALA president-elect or director. The AALA nominating committee had an amazing group of candidates to choose from this year,” said Traxinger, who chaired the nominations committee. “AALA appreciates the nominees, new and outgoing board members, and the many volunteers who devote service to the association.”

Peterson is a partner with Lathrop GPM LLP out of its Saint Cloud, Minnesota, office. He practices in the areas of commercial transactions, creditor's rights, bankruptcy, and agricultural and food law. He is a frequent speaker on agriculture and finance topics and is a former chair of the American Bar Association Agricultural and Agribusiness Financing Subcommittee. He has been a member of AALA since 2007 and served on its board of directors from 2015 to 2017.

Peterson grew up on a 200-acre dairy farm in northwest Wisconsin. He is a graduate of Hamline University (B.A. economics), the University of Kansas School of Law (J.D.) and the University of Arkansas School of Law (LL.M. agricultural law). Prior to law school, he was a market analyst for CHS and advised grain cooperatives in South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado on commodity hedging strategies and agricultural futures and options. He later traded hard red winter wheat futures and options from the floor of the Kansas City Board of Trade. He is married and has two children (ages 10 and 12).

"I am excited to serve as the president-elect of the AALA and be further involved in an organization in which I have so many personal and professional relationships," Peterson said. "I attended my first AALA annual meeting as a student in 2006 in Savannah, Georgia, and over the years, I have seen the organization continue to offer high-quality programming, a forum for discussion and, most importantly, professional networking. I look forward to the coming year."

Schroeder grew up on a family farm in northeastern Indiana. Now she focuses her legal practice in Indianapolis working for farmers and agribusinesses. She has litigated complex environmental and agricultural matters, including insurance coverage, regulatory compliance, tort claims, zoning appeals and employment claims. She also negotiates and drafts contracts for agricultural companies and farms, including solar leases and employment agreements. She is licensed in Indiana and Illinois and has represented a wide variety of clients from start-up companies and livestock farmers to large agricultural businesses, trade groups and municipalities.

Schroeder has served as the AALA membership committee co-chair since the 2018–2019 membership year. She also has been involved in the annual symposium planning process, serving on the planning committee since 2018 and co-chairing the subcommittee for the private practice track in 2019, 2020 and 2021. She presented at the 2018 symposium in Portland, Oregon, giving a talk on "Consumers as the New Regulators" and presented on solar development at the 2021 symposium.

“Serving the agricultural industry is important to me,” Schroeder said. “I’m honored to be elected to this board committed to providing such an essential industry with excellent information, advice and counsel on all issues of agricultural law and law affecting rural communities.”

Davis is a partner in the New Orleans, Louisiana, office of Phelps Dunbar. His practice specializes in providing practical solutions to agribusinesses that operate in the labor and employment space and who have needs that intersect with business transactions, employment-based immigration, and governmental affairs and compliance.

Drawing upon his roots in rural Louisiana and his family history, including generations of small farmers, Davis understands the practical, business and logistical aspects of farming in today’s regulatory environment. Being ingrained in the industry informs his comprehensive approach to solving the various legal issues arising in the agribusiness context. He has represented individual farmers, farm cooperatives and investor-owned farming operations in litigation, advisory and regulatory matters. The scope and depth of that work has focused on managing the hurdles presented by the complex regulatory environment and resolving the dynamic labor and employment changes with real-time solutions.

Davis frequently speaks about the legal issues affecting the agricultural industry, and he publishes content on legal trends, upcoming regulations and industry shifts. With a constant eye on the legislative pipeline, he has earned a reputation as an industry expert in agriculture workforce management. He has been a member of AALA since 2017 and frequently speaks at association events and contributes to member publications. He also is productive in local and national professional organizations among the general and specialty bars, as well as industry-specific organizations. In addition to his engagement with AALA, he is the immediate past president of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce. He is one of 418 fellows in the country selected to the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity. He has served on the board of directors for the New Orleans Bar Association and has been an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association for nearly 15 years.

“Agriculture is the backbone of the American economy. In a rapidly changing environment, it’s important that we share information and advocate for the best policies for the agriculture and food communities,” Davis said. “I’m honored to serve on this board and assist in carrying out this important mission.”

*The American Agricultural Law Association (<https://www.aglaw-assn.org>) serves as the premier association for agricultural law and policy professionals. Its mission is to inform and engage the law and policy professionals who serve all facets of the agricultural and food communities.*

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