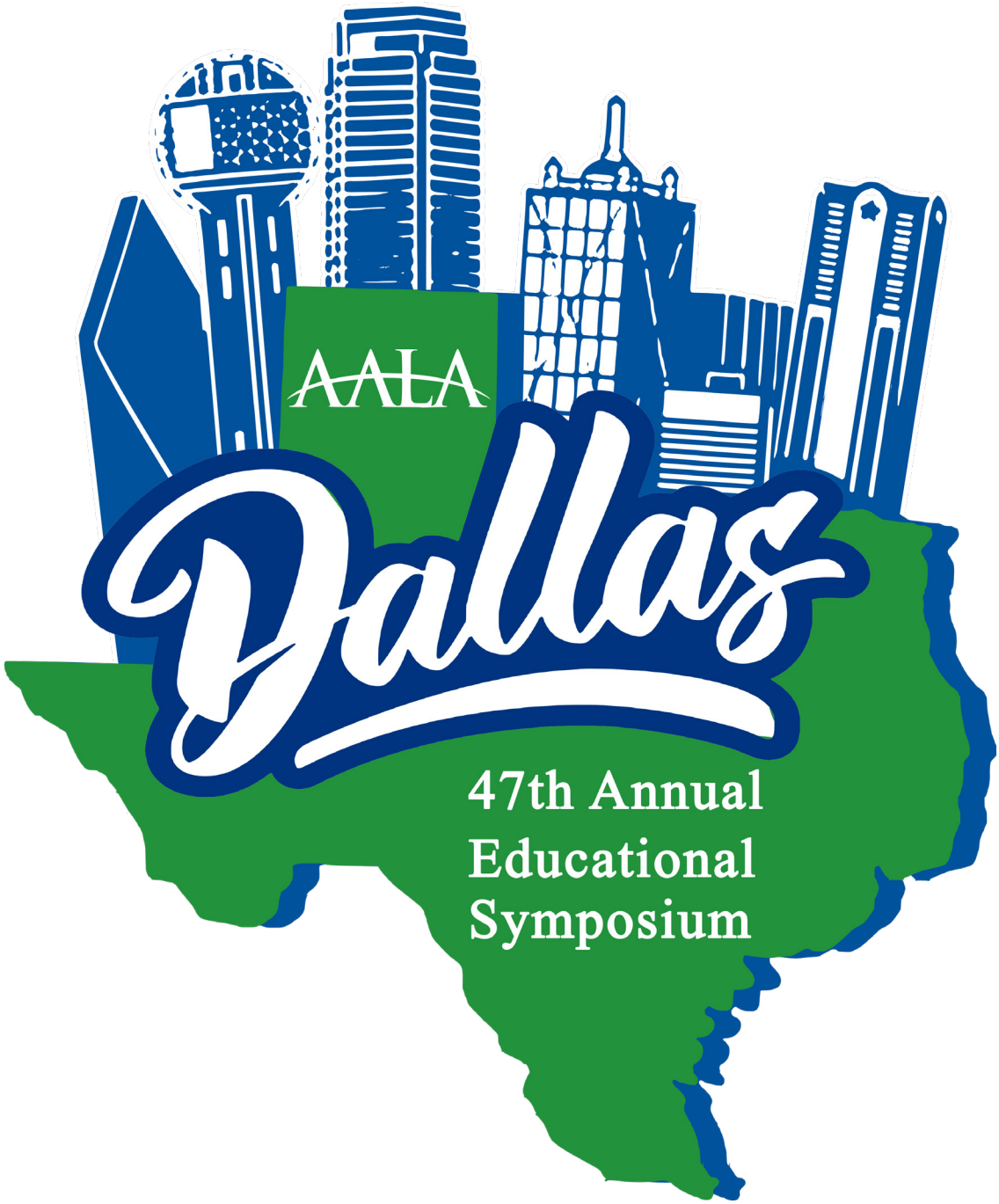

Co-Hosted by:

the **American Agricultural Law Association**
and the **National Agricultural Law Center**

AALA
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47th ANNUAL AALA EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

NOVEMBER 5 - 7, 2026

The Fairmont | Dallas, TX

Agenda

47th Annual AALA Educational Symposium

2026 AGENDA

EDUCATIONAL TRACKS & SESSIONS

- P — POLICY TRACK
- PP — PRIVATE PRACTITIONER TRACK
- FL — FOOD LAW TRACK
- IC — IN-HOUSE/CORPORATE COUNSEL TRACK
- E — ETHICS SESSION

THURSDAY, NOV. 05

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. NASDA MEETINGS

9:00 a.m - 10:30 a.m. STATE AGENCY ATTORNEYS MEETING (invitation only)

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. NE2033 AG AND NATURAL RESOURCE LAW GROUP

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. FARM BUREAU LINC MEETING

CAREER PATHWAYS PANEL & THURSDAY CLE PROGRAM
SPONSORED & CO-HOSTED BY: **SMU Dedman School of Law & Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute's Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Research Cluster** LOCATION: Southern Methodist University Hughes-Trigg Ballroom AB at the Hughes-Trigg Student Center 3140 Dyer Street, Suite 201 Dallas, TX 75205

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. **CAREER PATHWAYS PANEL**
(FREE TO ATTEND - REGISTRATION REQUIRED, no lunch included.)
SPEAKERS: • Mike Traxinger, Agtegra Cooperative • John Dillard, Olsson Frank Weeda Terman Matz PC • Alli Condra, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP • Kristi Boswell, Alston & Bird • Pat Dillon, Dillon Law PC

CLE Program Program includes a networking lunch at 12:15 p.m.

12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. **THURSDAY CLE PROGRAM: BORDER LANDOWNER ISSUES: NEW WORLD SCREWWORM, LANDOWNER LIABILITY, STATUTORY ATTEMPTS AT SOLUTIONS**
SPEAKERS: • Jim Bradbury, James D. Bradbury, PLLC
• Josh Winegarner, Texas Cattle Feeders Association
• J. Pete Laney, The Law Offices of J. Pete Laney

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **THURSDAY CLE PROGRAM: LAWMEN & LAWYERS: WHEN AG LAW & CRIMINAL LAW INTERSECT**
SPEAKERS: • Cahil Murchison, Johnson City, Texas
• Kenny Murchison, TSCRA • Clay McKinney, TSCRA

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **THURSDAY CLE PROGRAM: EMINENT DOMAIN**
SPEAKER: • Zach Brady, Brady Hamilton LLP

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THURSDAY, NOV. 05

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	**STUDENTS & NEW MEMBER RECEPTION** LOCATION: Fairmont Dallas, Texas
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	**WELCOME RECEPTION ON THE PATIO** LOCATION: Fairmont Dallas, Texas
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	**DANCE & LIVE MUSIC FEATURING TELL RUNYAN** LOCATION: Fairmont Dallas, Texas SPONSORED BY: Dillon Law, PC

FRIDAY, NOV. 06

7:00 a.m.	**REGISTRATION**
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	**BREAKFAST (provided)**
8:00 a.m - 8:15 a.m.	**INTRODUCTION & WELCOME**
8:15 a.m - 8:45 a.m.	**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW UPDATE** SPEAKER: Brigit Rollins, National Agricultural Law Center
8:45 a.m - 9:15 a.m.	**FOOD LAW UPDATE** SPEAKER: Susan Schneider, University of Arkansas School of Law
8:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	**STUDENT TRIVIA COMPETITION**
9:15 a.m - 9:45 a.m.	**TAX LAW UPDATE** SPEAKER: Kristine Tidgren, Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation
9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	**FINANCE LAW UPDATE** SPEAKER: Jeff Peterson, Winthrop & Weinstine
10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	**NETWORKING BREAK**
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (E)	**THIS MOVIE IS RATED MPRC: ETHICS GOES TO THE MOVIES** SPEAKER: Shannon Ferrell, Oklahoma State University
11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.	**FEATURED PRESENTATION: FIELD NOTES FROM A CHANGING PRACTICE** SPEAKER: Justice Larry Doss, Seventh District Court of Appeals

FRIDAY, NOV. 06

2026 AGENDA

12:20 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

LUNCH (on your own)
BY POPULAR REQUEST, WE HAVE EXTENDED THE LUNCH BREAK!
or
STUDENT LUNCHEON
SPONSORED BY North Carolina Farm Bureau and Mississippi Farm Bureau

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

P

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW UPDATE
SPEAKERS: • Travis Cushman, American Farm Bureau Federation • Michael Kimberly, Winston Taylor • Michael Scodro, Mayer Brown LLP

PP

WHAT LURKS BENEATH: GROUNDWATER QUALITY RISKS FOR AGRICULTURE
SPEAKERS: • Jim Bradbury, James D. Bradbury, PLLC • Deric DuQuaine, MilkSource LLC • David Crass, Michael Best & Friedrich LLP • Dr. Michael Sklash, Dragun Corporation

FL

CURRENT ISSUES IN FOOD LAW & FOOD FEDERALISM
SPEAKERS: • Erin Bacon, Caprock Strategies
• Alli Condra, Davis Wright Tremaine • Natalie Rainer, Steptoe

IC

IMMIGRATION LAW: PRACTICAL ADVICE
• SPEAKERS: • Brandon Davis, Phelps • Misty Borkowski, Hall Booth Smith, P.C.

3:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m.
CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

P

INTERSECTION OF OBBBA AND FARM BILL 2.0
SPEAKERS: • Justin Benavidez, Chief Economist, United States Department of Agriculture • Sam Rogers, U.S. House Committee on Agriculture • Dr. Bart Fischer, Agriculture and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M University

PP

THE GOLDEN RULE: THE ONE WITH THE GOLD MAKES THE RULES (WORKING WITH LENDERS)
SPEAKERS: • Jill Dillon, Rabo Agrifinance LLC
• Stephanie Bradley Fryer, Farm Credit of Western Oklahoma
• Garrett Couts, Brady & Hamilton LLP

FL

ANTITRUST COMPLIANCE BASICS FOR FOOD BUSINESSES AND NON-ANTITRUST PRACTITIONERS
SPEAKERS: • Lance Lange, Faegre Drinker
• Anna Sallstrom, Faegre Drinker • John Dillard, Olsson Frank Weeda Terman Matz PC

IC

RESPONDING EFFECTIVELY TO SOCIAL COMPLIANCE AUDITS
SPEAKERS: • Kyla Kaplan, Olsson Frank Weeda Terman Matz PC
• Chelsea Good, Good & Associates

4:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

NETWORKING BREAK

AALA
American Agricultural

FRIDAY, NOV. 06

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

P — ***SACKETT V. EPA* AND THE NEW WOTUS RULE: IMPLICATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE**
SPEAKERS: • Charlie Yates, Pacific Legal Foundation • Timothy Bishop, Mayer Brown • Courtney Briggs, American Farm Bureau Federation

PP — **THE IMPACT OF BANKRUPTCY ON AGRICULTURAL ISSUES - A SURVEY**
SPEAKER: • Bruce Akerly, Akerly Law PLLC• Robert N. Loughran, Akerly Law PLLC • Robert Yaquinto, Chapter 7 Trustee, Northern District of Texas

FL — **FOOD LABELING LITIGATION AND REGULATORY UPDATES: U.S. & CANADA**
SPEAKERS: • Michael Stark, Faegre Drinker • Tyler Young, Faegre Drinker • Nora Faris, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP • Julia Schatz, Bennett Jones LLP

IC — **THE FARMFLUENCER FIELD GUIDE: LEGAL COMPLIANCE STRATEGIES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS IN AGRICULTURE**
SPEAKERS: • Tore DeBella, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP • Angie Krieger, Landus

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. — **SKYLINE RECEPTION**
LOCATION: The Petroleum Club
1900 N. Akard St. Ste. 1400, Dallas, TX
SPONSORED BY: Gray Reed

SATURDAY, NOV. 07

7:00 a.m. — **REGISTRATION**

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. — **BREAKFAST (provided)**

7:00 a.m. - 8.00 a.m. — **3L BREAKFAST**

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. — **AG POLICY LAW UPDATE**
SPEAKER: David Grahn

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. — **LAND USE LAW UPDATE**
SPEAKERS: • Jesse Richardson, West Virginia University - College of Law • Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, Texas A&M University

SATURDAY, NOV. 07

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

FEATURED PRESENTATION: THE BIGGER PICTURE FOR AG LAW IN AN AGE OF REVOLT, RE-SORTING, AND RECONSTRUCTION
SPEAKER: Ray Starling, NC Chamber

9:30 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.

PRACTICE MAKES... PROGRESS: NAVIGATING THE EARLY YEARS OF LAW PRACTICE
MODERATORS: • Regan Booth, Booth Law Co.
• Trace Justiss, Villa Terra Consulting (Speakers TBD)

10:20 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

NETWORKING BREAK

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

P

THE SAM KANE PACKER INSOLVENCY SAGA, THE PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT TRUST, AND MANAGEMENT OF $38 MILLION IN CLIENT EXPECTATIONS
SPEAKERS: • David LeBas, Naman, Howell, Smith & Lee
• Craig Stokes, Stokes Law Office

PP

FARMLAND AS A NATIONAL SECURITY ASSET: AFIDA, STATE LAWS, AND COMPLIANCE
SPEAKERS: • Marisa Bocci, Arnold & Porter
• Kari Larson, Arnold & Porter • Jennifer Zwagerman, Agricultural Law Center at Drake Law School

FL

SEEDS OF SOVEREIGNTY: PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION AND INDIGENOUS AGRICULTURE
SPEAKERS: • Jessica Roberts, Davis, Wright Tremaine LLP
• Jesse Lyon, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP • Rebecca Tsosie, University of Arizona • Michelle Bos, Michelle Bos Legal LLC

IC

PRODUCT OF THE USA": THE COLLISION OF FEDERAL PREEMPTION, STATE CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND THE NEW COOL RULE IN TAYLOR V. JBS FOODS USA
SPEAKERS: • Amber Miller, National Pork Board • Blair Dunn, Western Agriculture, Resource and Business Advocates, LLP

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

AWARDS LUNCHEON & PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

P

USDA DEVELOPMENTS NOT IN THE HEADLINES
SPEAKERS: • Rachel Armstrong, Farm Commons • Scott Carlson, Farmers' Legal Action Group, Inc. • Lauren Wustenberg, Fork Legal Design, PLCC • Facilitator: Stephen Carpenter, Farmers' Legal Action Group, Inc.

PP

1031 EXCHANGES IN PRACTICE: LEGAL FRAMEWORK, RURAL APPLICATIONS, AND EVOLVING COMPLIANCE CONSIDERATIONS
SPEAKERS: • Max Hansen, Accruit • Greg Lehrmann, Excel 1031 Exchange

SATURDAY, NOV. 07

2026 AGENDA

FL **FSMA AT 15**
SPEAKERS: • Steven Mandernach, Association of Food and Drug Officials • Brad Deacon, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development • Mary Grywatch, Hogan Lovells

IC **AGRICULTURAL RISK MANAGEMENT PANEL**
SPEAKERS: • Mike Traxinger, Agtegra Cooperative
• Bradley R. Prowant, Stoel Rives LLP
• R. W. Smith, Holmes Murphy & Associates

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

P **WHEN CROPS FAIL AND COVERAGE PREVAILS: A LAWYER'S GUIDE TO FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE**
SPEAKERS: • Michael Stevens, AgriSompo North America, Inc.
• Carolyn Payne, AgriSompo North America, Inc.
• Lauren Ward, Daniel Coker Horton & Bell

PP **A BREWING STORM IN THE CLOUDS: LEGAL ISSUES OF DATA CENTERS ON FARMLAND**
MODERATOR: Chris Nichols, Brady & Hamilton SPEAKERS• Paul Goeringer, University of Maryland • Jennifer Friedel, Virginia Tech

FL **NAVIGATING REGULATORY TRANSITION: COMPLIANCE CHALLENGES IN THE EVOLVING LIVESTOCK FEED AND PET FOOD LANDSCAPE**
SPEAKERS: • Kitt Tovar Jensen, Kemin Industries, Inc • Amy White, University of Arkansas School of Law

IC **RESEARCHING FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL LAW IN PRACTICE: TOOLS AND STRATEGIES FOR ATTORNEYS**
SPEAKER: • Kirstin Nelson, MLS, JD, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service and National Agricultural Library

3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. **NETWORKING BREAK**

3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
CONCURRENT BREAKOUT

P **AGRICULTURAL RIGHT TO REPAIR: THE CURRENT FIX**
SPEAKERS: • Ross Pifer, Penn State Dickinson Law
• Gregory Nies, SIU Simmons Law School

PP **FARMING DATA: LEGAL RISKS & GOVERNANCE IN AGTECH, DATA SYSTEMS, AND AI-DRIVEN AGRICULTURE**
SPEAKERS: • Regan McGuill Booth, Booth Law Co. PLLC
• Gus Skinner, Nutrien Ag Solutions

SATURDAY, NOV. 07

PP

GO BIG OR GO HOME. THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN SELLING OR BUYING A LAW PRACTICE
SPEAKER: Pat Dillon, Dillon Law PC

E

BETWEEN THE BARN AND THE BOARDROOM: ETHICS FOR ATTORNEYS IN BOARD SERVICE
SPEAKER: • Kelly Wilfert, University of Wisconsin - Madison

4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. **BOARD LISTENING SESSION**