

The LL.M. Program in Agricultural and Food Law

**Advanced Legal Writing in Agricultural & Food Law**

Course Syllabus

Fall 2025

Professors Susan Schneider, Kelly Nuckolls, and Christopher Kelley

**Basic Information**

All LL.M. candidates are required to satisfy the Program's research and writing requirement by preparing "a written product for graded credit" that "demonstrates rigorous legal analysis, significant academic content, and quality legal writing skills." This is the 1-credit synchronous/recorded LL.M. course that is associated with this research and writing requirement. It is not structured as a typical semester course but rather provides students with assistance. Approval of the final written product results in the grade for this course.

All LL.M. candidates will have access to this the course and the resources provided throughout their LL.M. candidacy regardless of when they are technically enrolled.

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| Classroom:  Class will meet in person in the LL.M. Study (room 254) and in our virtual classroom on Zoom. | Class Times (Central)  Friday, 12:00 - 1:00 P.M.  August 22 - November 21, 2025 |
| Office & Contact:  Professor Susan A. Schneider  Email [sschneid@uark.edu](mailto:sschneid@uark.edu)  Professor Kelly Nuckolls  Email: kn015@uark.edu  Professor Christopher Kelley  Email: ckelley@uark.edu | In-person, video or phone conferences are available throughout the work week. Please email the professor to make an appointment. |

**Required Course Materials**

Course materials have been assembled by the Professors and will be provided to students electronically via the Blackboard Organization - LL.M. Group website.

**Learning Outcomes**

The primary goal of this class is to assist students in completing the research and writing requirement for the LL.M. degree. After completing the units within this class, students should be able to:

* Access the best sources for current agricultural and food law news and information
* Perform advanced research into complex agricultural and food law topics, including using tools provided through the University of Arkansas Young Law Library;
* Complete research to determine what articles have been written on any selected agricultural and food law topic;
* Select and develop an appropriate article topic
* Understand plagiarism and the risks associated with it
* Explore the appropriate uses of AI technology in scholarly writing, while knowing how to avoid inappropriate uses
* Cite to primary legal sources
* Provide accurate citations and source references in scholarly writing;
* Use proper Bluebook citations
* Develop a time frame for completion of the writing requirement

**Topics to be Covered**

Week 1 (August 22, 2025)

* Introduction to the LL.M. Writing Requirement
* Introduction to Specialized News/information sources
* Lessons Learned from the Past: Tips on Avoiding Problems

Week 2 (August 29, 2025)

* Discussion on Topic Selection

Week 3 (September 5, 2025)

* Online research tools available through the Young Law Library

Week 4 (September 12, 2025)

* Student presentations

Week 5 (September 19, 2025)

* Plagiarism and the Copy/Paste Trap

Week 6 (September 26, 2025)

* AI Technology and Legal Scholarship

Week 7 (October 3, 2025)

* Citation Basics: Primary Authority
* Citation Basics: Bluebook Citation

Week 8-14 (October 10 - November 21, 2025)

* Developing a timeline for completion
* Individual student meetings and workshops

**Out of Class Work Expectation**

In accordance with ABA Standard 310 and law school policy §2-901, it is expected that students should spend an average of at least two (2) hours outside of class researching and writing for every hour of class time.

**Attendance Policy**

The importance of active student participation and engagement makes regular attendance important. Regular attendance is interpreted to mean that for each class, a student must:

1) attend in person,

2) attend live by video conference, or

3) watch the class recording and complete a post-class assessment.

**Computers**

Due to the extensive use of technology in the LL.M. Program, all students are expected to have access to a computer. For questions, please contact LL.M. Distance Education Technology Coordinator Juan Serna-Navarro, by email to [js190@uark.edu](mailto:js190@uark.edu?subject=Technical%20Assistance).

**Assessments**

The final course grade will be based on completion of this course of study and completion of an article that satisfies the LL.M. Advanced Writing Requirement. The only applicable time line is that students are expected to graduate within four years of their start of the Program. Extensions can be granted as needed.

**Technological Difficulties**

In the event of significant technical difficulties that impair transmission or outages that prevent the synchronous broadcast of a live class, we will attempt to send an announcement via email and/or text. For individual technical problems with Blackboard, contact Blackboard Support at (479) 575-6804. Refer to the Support tab in Blackboard for additional support options. For videoconferencing support, contact LL.M. Distance Education Technology Coordinator Juan Serna-Navarro at js190@uark.edu.

**Inclement Weather**

If the University of Arkansas closes to due to inclement weather, on-campus delivery will be canceled. However, class will generally be conducted with remote delivery and video participation. If weather conditions make travel difficult, class may also proceed with remote delivery only and participation by video conference. Students will be notified of this via email at least one hour prior to the start of class.

**Disability Accommodations**

The University of Arkansas abides by all state and federal laws protecting persons with disabilities, including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no student shall be denied the benefits of an education “solely by reason of a disability.” Disabilities covered by law include, but are not limited to, learning disabilities and hearing, sight or mobility impairment. Students with Disabilities may request academic adjustments as provided under federal law. All such requests should be made by first contacting the Center for Educational Access (CEA). Contact CEA at : ARKU 104, Fayetteville, AR 72701, (479) 575-3104 (voice), (479) 575-3646 (TDD), web: <http://cea.uark.edu/>. Additional information about the accommodation process may also be obtained from Director of Academic Success Amber Prince at ajprinc@uark.edu or 479-575-6896.

**Mental Health Services**

The University of Arkansas provides counseling services to students via the Pat Walker Health Center’ Counseling & Psychological Service (CAPS) which offers critical mental health services such as individual counseling, group counseling, psychiatry, emergency services, and case management. Although some services — such as ongoing individual counseling and psychiatry have minimal charges — much of the services offered with no charge. Additionally, JLAP provides lawyers and law students similar services for no charge. Please reach out to either organization if you need assistance.

**Emergency Procedures for On-Campus Students**

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus. Instructions for specific emergencies such as severe weather, active shooter, or fire can be found at [emergency.uark.edu](https://safety.uark.edu/emergency-preparedness/).

Severe Weather (Tornado Warning):

* Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel.
* Seek shelter in the basement or interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
* If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building.
* Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors.

Violence / Active Shooter (CADD):

* CALL **-** 9-1-1.
* AVOID **-** If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
* DENY **-** Barricade the door with desk, chairs, bookcases or any items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it’s safe.
* DEFEND - Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.