

Agricultural Law

OVERVIEW

Global population growth drives demand for legal experts who can navigate complex issues in agriculture and food production. Established in 1983, the Drake Agricultural Law Center is internationally recognized for its leadership in agricultural law and policy.

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- Land use, soil, water, and environmental conservation
- Food safety and agricultural marketing
- Biotechnology, renewable energy, and climate change
- Agricultural finance, tax and business planning, and international trade

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates understand the specialized legal needs of food supply chains and rural communities. Alumni work nationwide across:

- **Government and Policy:** State legislatures and government agencies
- **Private Sector:** Financial institutions, agribusinesses, and private law practices representing farms, ranches, and food systems

AGRICULTURAL LAW

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL LAW CERTIFICATE

Drake offers the nation's first certificate of its kind, requiring 21 course credits, an internship, and a major legal research/writing project.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

Required Courses

Introduction to Agricultural Law, Food and the Law, Environmental Regulation of Agriculture

Electives

Administrative Law, Animal Law, Current Issues in Food & Agriculture Environmental Law, Intro to Intellectual Property, International Trade, Land Use Control, Legislation, Special Topics in Food and Agricultural Law, State and Local Government, Sustainability and the Law, Wills and Trusts

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND RESEARCH

The Center actively educates the legal and farming communities through annual conferences, articles, and books. Backed by funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Congress, Farm Credit, and other foundations, its recent research focuses on:

- New and beginning farmers, including veteran assistance
- Food policy councils and direct farm marketing
- Renewable energy, rural development, and production contracts

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FACULTY

Jennifer Zwagerman

Director of the Agricultural Law Center; Associate Professor of Law

JD, Drake University Law School; LL.M., University of Arkansas School of Law; faculty advisor, Drake Journal of Agricultural Law; former national food and agricultural litigator; expert in Agriculture Law, Food Law and Policy, Animal, and Property Law.

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