



Legal Services Boost Vermont's Local Food System

A year ago, Vermont Law School's [Center for Agriculture and Food Systems \(CAFS\)](#) partnered with Conservation Law Foundation to [launch the Vermont Legal Food Hub](#). The program connects income-eligible Vermont farmers, food entrepreneurs, and related organizations with attorneys willing to provide pro bono legal assistance. So far, participants have saved more than \$57,000 in legal fees, leveraging around 211 hours of pro bono legal services. Twenty-four cases have been placed with 17 volunteer attorneys.



The Vermont Farmers Food Center sought the hub's assistance on a trademark matter.

"Despite the many challenges 2020 has brought, it's been a great first year," said Food and Agriculture Clinic Director Sophia Kruszewski. "I'm so impressed by our volunteer attorneys and our partners in the food system, and I'm proud of our work together to support a thriving local farm and food community."

[Visit the VLS blog](#) to read about some of the hub's recent cases, and follow the link below to learn how you can get involved.

[Learn more »](#)

New Factsheets for Farmers Markets



The Dalles Farmers Market, Oregon

We're excited to share two new resources for farmers market operators, developed in partnership with Farmers Market Coalition and NOFA-Vermont as part of our [Farmers Market Legal Toolkit](#).

The first [answers questions about free speech](#)—in particular, what types of restrictions markets can place on activities like leafleting, political campaigning, and protesting, and whether markets are obligated to allow these types of activities under the First Amendment. The second [assists market operators in developing mask policies during COVID-19](#). It outlines how to develop policies that ensure the safety of vendors and customers, while also respecting the rights of individuals who are not able to wear a mask due to a disability.

[View all farmers market resources »](#)



Lauren Wustenberg JD/MFALP'21 Places 2nd in Food and Drug Law Institute Writing Competition

Congratulations to Vermont Law School student Lauren Wustenberg for winning second place in the Food and Drug Law Institute's [Thomas H. Austern Student Writing Competition](#). Lauren impressed the judges with her article "Interpreting the 'Same Level of Public Health Protection' in Produce Safety Rule Variances," which will be eligible for publication in the Food and Drug Law Journal. The article grew out of Lauren's work in our [Food and Agriculture Clinic](#), where she developed resources for farmers navigating new requirements under the Food Safety Modernization Act. See [here](#) to view those resources, and visit our [Instagram highlights](#) for a video of Lauren explaining her work.

[Learn more »](#)



Alumni Spotlight: Emily Lyons JD'14, Senior Associate, Husch Blackwell LLP

Emily Lyons JD'14 grew up on a small conventional dairy farm and came to Vermont Law School to broaden her "understanding of the intersection of food, agriculture, environment, and the law." After graduating, she interned at the National Farmers Union and then worked on regulatory affairs and as legal counsel at the International Dairy Foods Association. Now in private practice at a firm in Washington, D.C., Emily focuses on food regulation within the firm's FDA practice. Visit the Vermont Law School blog to learn more about Emily's path, and hear her advice for pursuing a legal career in the food and agriculture space.

[Read more »](#)



Advocating for a U.S. National Food Strategy

In partnership with the Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic, we published the [Urgent Call for a U.S. National Food Strategy](#) last fall. Now, as we look ahead to a new Congress and new Administration, there's no better time to think big about food system reform. View the new [Executive Summary](#) for an overview of the report, and please share our [Call for Congress](#) and [Call for the Incoming Administration](#) to implement a U.S. National Food Strategy.



Meet Farmland Access Experts/ Conozca a los Expertos del Acceso a Tierras Agrícolas

During the EcoFarm Conference on January 20-23, CAFS Senior Legal Fellow Francine Miller and David Mancera of Kitchen Table Advisors/Mancera Consulting Group will co-host several bilingual "Meet the Experts" sessions, in which farmers can ask questions about farmland access in English or Spanish. See [here](#) to learn more, and visit our [Farmland Access Legal Toolkit](#) to view the bilingual resources we've developed.



Durante la Conferencia EcoFarm que se celebrará del 20 al 23 de enero, Francine Miller de CAFS y David Mancera de Kitchen Table Advisors/Mancera Consulting Group, serán los oradores de sesiones bilingües de "Conozca a los Expertos" en las cuales los agricultores podrán hacer preguntas en inglés o en español sobre el acceso a tierras agrícolas. Haga clic [aquí](#) para aprender más y visite nuestro sitio web y lea el [Farmland Access Legal Toolkit](#), para ver los recursos bilingües que hemos desarrollado.

Catch Up With CAFS

Hear from our faculty and staff via news, podcasts, webinars, and more.

- Director Laurie Beyranevand recently weighed in on how policymaking can promote food justice for [Food Tank](#). She also spoke with [VTDigger](#) about the inefficiencies and injustices that COVID-19 exposed in our food system.
- As Chair of the Association of American Law Schools' Section on Agricultural and Food Law, Beyranevand also moderated the session entitled "Law and Policy Measures to Achieve Equality in the Agricultural and Food System" at the recent [AALS conference](#). It highlighted law and policy measures aimed at food system equality.
- Along with Emily Broad Leib of the Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic, Beyranevand was interviewed for [The Leading Voices in Food](#) podcast about the [Urgent Call for a U.S. National Food Strategy](#).
- Associate Director Lihlani Nelson was a guest on the podcast [Tent Talk](#). She discussed free speech issues at farmers markets.
- Professor Emily Spiegel co-organized a listening session on seed intellectual property rights with Organic Seed Alliance and NCAT. A recording of the event is available [here](#).
- Food and Agriculture Clinic Director Sophia Kruszewski co-hosted a panel on "The Bankruptcy Code's Best-Kept Secret: How Chapter 12 Can Protect and Transform the Farm." A recording is available [here](#).
- Kruszewski also authored [a blog post](#) about the Vermont Legal Food Hub in the *Vermont Law Review*.



Interested in Pursuing a Degree at Vermont Law School?

We offer a [Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy \(MFALP\)](#); an [LLM in Food and Agriculture Law](#); and JD and joint degrees with a [concentration in food and agriculture](#). View Vermont Law School's latest environmental law brochure for all the details.

[Learn more »](#)




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