



National Agricultural Law Center: History, Mission, & Resources

AAPCO Annual Conference 2026

Harrison M. Pittman
Director

The National Agricultural Law Center

- Created by Congress in 1987
- The nation's leading source for agricultural and food law research and information
 - www.nationalaglawcenter.org
- Objective/neutral, non-partisan
 - What the law is, rather than what the law should be
- Stakeholder-driven
- The only institution of its kind in the United States



“The Beginning” of NALC: April 13, 1988 (*and* 2006-2007)

- “The center will provide timely, neutral international, state and federal legal research and information to practicing attorneys, farm and commodity groups, farmers’ aid organizations, state and federal agencies, members of Congress and others who are helping farmers and farmer-related industries deal with the crushing legal challenges facing them today.”
- “To establish a national clearing house for systematic collection, indexing, and publication of agricultural law information.”
- “To coordinate with the Cooperative Extension Service in providing information to producers in planning programs on agricultural law issues.”
- “To provide support to educational programs in agricultural law in the land grant universities and in other institutions of higher education.”
- “To coordinate with national organizations, such as the American Agricultural Law Association, in the dissemination of information on agricultural law matters to members and other groups.”



NALC: Stakeholder-Driven

- Producers
- Agribusinesses
- Commodity groups/trade associations
- Federal and state policymakers/lawmakers
- Congressional staff
- Cooperative Extension Service professionals
- Input suppliers
- Academics and students
- Farm Credit System & Other Ag Lenders
- Farm managers and rural appraisers
- Public and private sector attorneys/law firms
- Media
- Government affairs/lobbying firms
- & More



NALC: Examples of Issues Covered

- Article 9, bankruptcy, ag liens
- ACRE Act & FCS System
- **Foreign ownership of agricultural land**
- Farm Bills – before, during, and after
- WOTUS
- Prop 12
- **Endangered Species Act**
- Industrial hemp/cannabis
- Carbon contracts
- Solar leases
- Federal and state checkoff programs
- NRCS wetlands compliance
- States' meat processing laws
- Civil rights issues at USDA
- Federal crop insurance
- Heirs' Property
- **Pesticide legislation, litigation, and regulation**
- Long-term healthcare for farming operations
- Hunting leases
- **PFAS**
- Etc.



NALC Staff & Partnerships

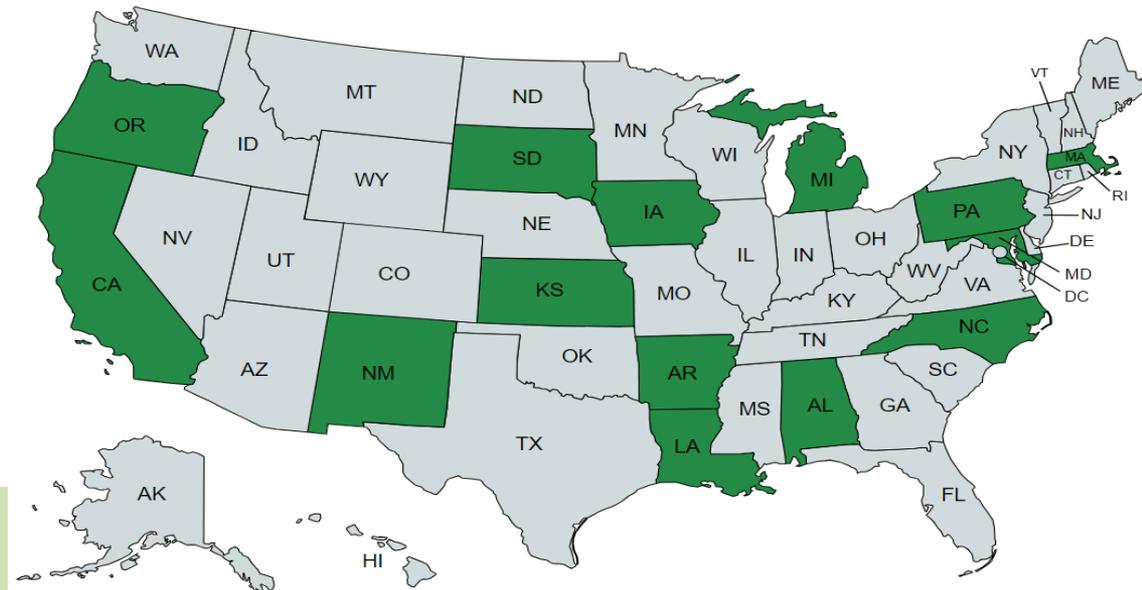
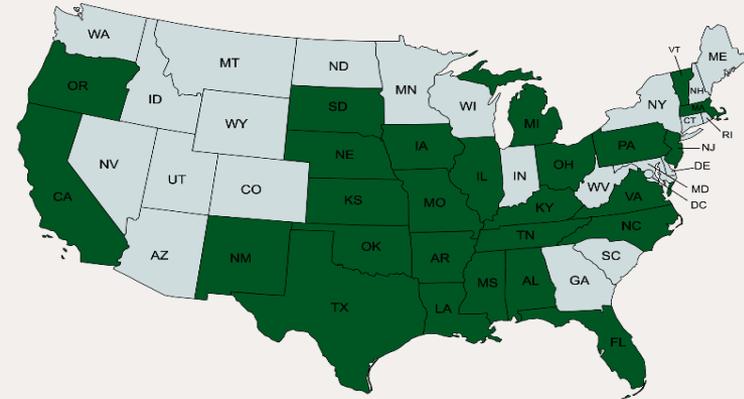
- Senior Staff Attorneys
- Staff Attorneys
- Research Fellows
- Communications & website
- Strategic network of partnerships
 - National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) and the NASDA Foundation
 - Texas A&M AgriLife
 - American Agricultural Law Association
 - Center for Agricultural & Shale Law



NALC: Research Fellows

- Law students from throughout the United States
- Approximately 25 semester-to-semester
- Compensation and/or academic credit
- Will advertise for next round of RF applicants soon

Past Research Fellow Locations



NALC: Website

www.nationalaglawcenter.org



NALC Website: Reading Rooms/Research by Topic

- 50+ Reading Rooms, including:
 - Finance & Credit
 - Farm Bills
 - Crop Insurance
 - Agricultural Leases
 - Aquaculture
 - Corporate Farming Laws
 - **Endangered Species Act**
 - **Pesticides**
 - Urban Encroachment (i.e., states' right to farm laws)



NALC: Specific Types of Outreach

- NALC website (www.nationalaglawcenter.org)
- Publications – one to two weekly, in general
- Presentations (in-person and webinars)
- One-on-one/small audience
- NALC-hosted conferences
- Quarterly e-Newsletter
- The Feed
- Social media
 - Facebook (@nataglaw)
 - Twitter (@nataglaw)
 - LinkedIn

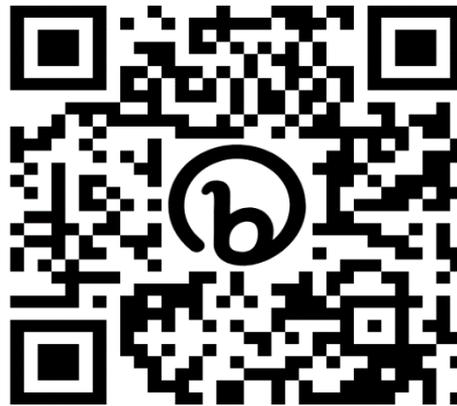


NALC: Publications

- NALC Staff Attorneys publish weekly, generally
- Outside subject matter experts
 - Interested in co-authorship
 - Attorneys
 - Cooperative Extension Service factsheets
 - Land grant university and other university faculty
 - Commissioning articles, i.e.:
 - Practitioner's Guide to Litigating Federal Crop Insurance Claims
 - USDA National Appeals Division Practice and Procedure
 - Public lands issues
 - Permanent crops/specialty crops



NALC: Publications (Examples)

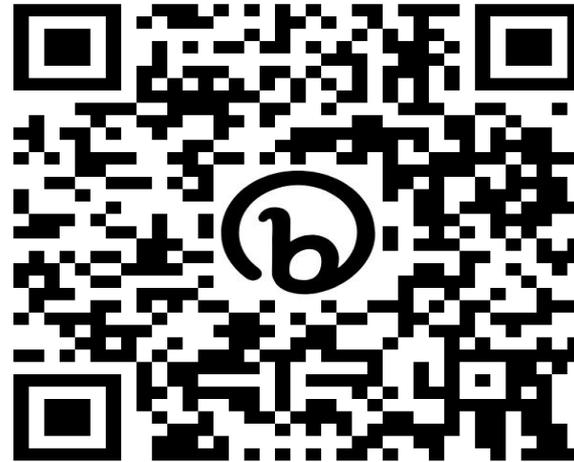


NALC: Outreach & Presentations

- County, state, regional conservation districts
 - Congressional committee staff
 - Legal conferences
 - Farm managers and rural appraisers
 - Women in Agriculture
 - American Society of Agricultural Consultants
 - USDA Ag Outlook
 - Farm Bureau meetings (county level on up)
 - State Agribusiness associations
 - Research and promotion boards
 - Commodity group/trade association meetings
 - Etc.
- **We always try to find a way to say “yes”**



NALC: Webinars “Every Third Wednesday”+



Email list for webinars



NALC webinars page – upcoming and archived



Webinar: Coming up May 20

Failure to Warn:
A Look at Recent State and Federal Action on Pesticide Labeling



Brigit Rollins
Staff Attorney, NAALC

May 20, 2026
Noon - 1 p.m. ET
No cost to register



Quarterly e-Newsletter

- Recent and upcoming NALC and partner research and information/outreach activities
- Subscribe free-of-charge



NALC Newsletter: The Feed



- Issues every 2 weeks (once only in December)
- Concise ag law & policy updates w/ links to NALC resources



Upcoming Conferences: Western & Mid-South

- Annual Mid-South Agricultural & Environmental Law Conference
- Annual Western Water, Ag, & Environmental Law Conference
- “Advancing American Agriculture” online series (May 2026 launch)
- DC Program (May 6)
- Designed for attorneys and non-attorney ag professionals
- Attorneys, government affairs/lobbyists, lenders, farm managers and rural appraisers, students)



NALC: Looking Ahead

- Partnership with National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Foundation
- Investing in the future – scholarships, internships, and the like
- Friends of the NALC



Scott E. Fancher
**Summer in D.C.
Ag Law & Policy
Fellowship**

Apply by **Jan. 5, 2026**
Inquiries: **nataglaw@uark.edu**



Comments/Questions



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