



## The National Agricultural Law Center

### Western Water, Agricultural and Environmental Law Conference 2025 Agenda

Thursday, June 19 – Friday, June 20 | Reno, Nevada | Agenda is in Pacific Time

#### Wednesday, June 18

- Informal reception at Peppermill's Terrace Lounge at 5 p.m.

#### Thursday, June 19:

7:00 – 8:25 a.m.: **Registration and Breakfast**

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.: **Western Water, Ag, & Food: Perspectives from State Departments of Agriculture**

- Christy Clark, Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- J.J. Goicoechea, DVM, Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture
- Jeff Witte, Director/Secretary, New Mexico Department of Agriculture

Moderator: Wes Ward, Secretary, Arkansas Department of Agriculture and President, NASDA (2024-2025)

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.: **Ag, Food, & Federal and State Agency Deference in a Post-Chevron World**

- Lauren J. "Larry" Caster, Director, Fennemore Law
- Brigit Rollins, Staff Attorney, National Agricultural Law Center

10:30 – 10:45 a.m.: **Break 1**

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.: **Federal-Private Split Estate: Considerations for Living and Operating on Stock-Raising Homestead Act Lands**

- Katy Devries Riker, Associate, Holland & Hart

11:45 – 1:15 p.m.: **Lunch**

1:15 – 2:15 p.m.: **Deadlines Matter & the Two-Year Clock is Ticking: The Fate of the Colorado River & Future of Ag**

- James Eklund, Partner & Leader of Water and Natural Resources Practice Area, Taft Law
- Hannah Mink, Associate, Taft Law

2:15 – 3:15 p.m.: **Ethical Considerations in Estate Planning and Administration**

- David Claiborne, Partner & Founding Member, Sawtooth Law Offices, PLLC

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.: **Break 2**

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.: **Fourth Amendment and Agriculture: Warrantless Access to Ag & Private Rural Lands**

- Robert Frommer, Senior Attorney, Institute for Justice
- Joshua Windham, Senior Attorney, Institute for Justice

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.: **Pre-Dinner Networking Reception**

- At Naples Ballroom

## **Friday, June 20**

7:00 – 8:25 a.m.: **Registration and Breakfast**

8:30-9:30 a.m.: **Ag Land Transactions in the Western U.S.: Update on Market & Legal Trends**

- Dave Muth, Director of Capital Markets, Peoples Company
- Quinn Kendrick, General Counsel, Peoples Company

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.: **Water Banking and Leasing in the West: Practical Pointers and Pitfalls**

- Ernest Conant, Counsel, Downey Brand LLP
- Alyssa A. Moir, Partner, K&L Gates
- Emily E. Lewis, Partner, Culp & Kelly

10:30-10:45 a.m.: **Break 1**

10:45 - 11:45 a.m.: **Update from the Potomac: Farm Bill, Public Lands, and Related Issues**

- Fitzhugh Elder IV, Staff Director, U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- Kristin Sleeper, Deputy Under Secretary-Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture

11:45 - 12:45 p.m.: **Lunch**

12:45 - 1:45 p.m.: **WOTUS & Water Quality in the West in a Post-Sackett World**

- Tess Dunham, Partner, Kahn, Soares, & Conway, LLP

1:45 - 2:00 p.m.: **Break 2**

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.: **Dealing with Government Agencies: Ethical Considerations**

- Lawson Fite, Shareholder, Schwabe, Williamson, & Wyatt, P.C.

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.: **Dealing with Farm Debt in the West: Practical Considerations in Preparing for & Navigating Ag Bankruptcy**

- Jamie Dreher, Partner/Chair, Litigation Department, Downey Brand LLP