

SYMPOSIUM

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY FOOD LAW: WHAT'S ON OUR PLATES?

Food law is a vast area of law with far-reaching impacts on the everyday lives of consumers, businesses and industries, and the environment. This year, Lewis & Clark Law School hosted its 16th annual symposium, intending to promote discussion on a variety of issues relating to food law. Many of the nation's experts in areas related to food law participated in the symposium, as well as practitioners who offered a unique perspective on practical issues related to food law litigation. Congressman Earl Blumenauer also joined the symposium to offer remarks on issues pertaining to the United States farm bill. The symposium focused on important food law and policy issues including food labeling and food production. In addition, many prominent scholars wrote essays or articles for publication in this 2017 symposium edition of *Environmental Law*. The articles represent some of the ideas presented and discussed at the symposium.

Professor Laurie Beyranevand examines issues arising from inherently subjective food labeling claims. The essay suggests that the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should ban food labels that are not supported by significant scientific agreement. As an alternative, the essay suggests that FDA require curative disclaimers, such as those required for qualified health claims unsupported by significant scientific agreement. Professor Robin Craig discusses federalism conflicts in genetically-engineered food labeling requirements. The article explores voids existing in food labeling requirements and evaluates Congress's recent attempt to address such voids. Professor Rebecca Bratspies explains how consolidation by large agricultural corporations carries a negative impact on consumer choice, food security, and sustainability. The article discusses three ag-biotech mergers and considers the regulatory concerns related to the mergers as well as potential negative impacts on public welfare.

Professor Sidney Shapiro's essay discusses risk exposure to the public from use of antibiotics in animal production. The essay discusses the importance of using federal regulation to protect the public from antibiotic-

resistant bacterial infections, as well as the civil justice system to fill gaps in public health protection. Jamie Konopacky and Professor Laurie Ristino's article considers the need for clean water and proposes a framework for integrating Clean Water Act Programs with farm bill conservation programs to promote water quality and limit water pollution from agricultural sources. Professor Anastasia Telesetsky discusses the importance of traceability in food law, especially in the global seafood business. The article explores a recent federal law on traceability that was intended to combat illegal fishing imports and concludes that the federal rule will not produce substantial change in industry practices.

Professor Margaret McCabe's article discusses the effects of agriculture and food production on greenhouse gas emissions and environmental pollution. The article suggests that environmental sustainability should be encoded in American law and suggests that the federal government should use the United States Dietary Guidelines as a policy tool to promote human and environmental health in the 21st century.

Professor Roberta Mann considers how obesity may negatively impact individual health, the economy, and the environment. The article examines a variety of economic instruments that may be utilized to control obesity—in particular, using food taxation to control obesity. By considering current trends in food taxation, the article discusses how existing tax provisions can be modified to help with the problem of obesity.

Environmental Law would like to thank the authors who contributed to this issue, the symposium presenters, participants and volunteers, and all those involved in making the symposium a success. We hope this symposium issue fosters meaningful discussion on the debate surrounding food law in the 21st century and encourages meaningful progress towards addressing the various issues related to food law.

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