

The Agriculturalist Lawyer



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Note From the Chair

By Allen H. Olson, Section Chair
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The Agriculture Law Section election results are in, and it looks like you are stuck with me for another year. However, there is hope. The executive committee, at my suggestion, has proposed section bylaws that limit section officers to no more than two consecutive terms. Elections for 2007-2008 officers will be held next September.

I am pleased to announce that Beth Crocker has been elected as vice-chair and Nowell Berreth as secretary. I have also appointed Matt Matilla and Samuel Primm to serve as the non-officer members of the executive committee. I look forward to working with this exceptional team.

Nowell has also volunteered to serve as CLE chair this year. Tentative plans call for our second annual Agriculture Law CLE to be held sometime in September in the Macon area. The program will be an expanded version our first CLE held last March in Tifton. Please contact Nowell at nberreth@alston.com with your ideas for topics and speakers.

As all of you who attended will no doubt agree, the American Agricultural Law Association Conference in Savannah in October was a great success. The section-sponsored Ag Commissioner's panel was well received, as was Sen. Chambliss's keynote address on the upcoming farm bill. Attendees from all over the country were highly impressed by Savannah and Georgia hospitality. Copies of the conference proceedings can be purchased from AALA (www.aglaw-assn.org) for a small fee. Next year, AALA will hold its conference in San Diego.

Some of you are members of AALA, but many of you are not. In order to encourage you to join, complimentary issues of the AALA newsletter, *Agricultural Law Update*, will be e-mailed to all section members who receive their section communications by that medium. I strongly encourage all of you who still receive section communications by snail mail to switch to e-mail as soon as possible. This will allow you to see for yourselves what a great resource AALA and its newsletter are for ag law practitioners. It will also save the section money by reducing copying costs and postage on its own newsletter and other mailings.

This month's newsletter contains a link to an article by Professor Susan Schneider on Statutory Agricultural Liens under Revised Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code. Those of you who attended the AALA Conference heard Susan's excellent presentation on agricultural bankruptcy law. Susan is the director of the Agricultural Law Graduate

Program at the University of Arkansas Law School (www.law.uark.edu) and is one of the country's leading ag law academics. The newsletter contains a second link to an article titled "World Trade Organization and the Commodity Title of the Next Farm Bill: A Practitioner's View," by Doug O'Brien, co-director of The National Agricultural Law Center.

If you are interested in either article, but do not have e-mail or cannot open the link, please let either Section Liaison Johanna Merrill or me know at 404-527-8774 and 229-888-3338, respectively, and we would be glad to send you a hard copy.

Both articles are reprinted here with the permission of The National Agricultural Law Center. The Center is based at the University of Arkansas and is an excellent resource for all agricultural lawyers (www.NatAgLaw@uark.edu). Future issues of this newsletter will contain links to articles on other agricultural law topics written by National Agricultural Law Center staff and contributors.

I also continue to encourage section members to contribute articles on ag law topics of their choice and to send me news items, recent cases and new legislation they would like noted in our newsletter. It is my intention to expand this year's newsletter from last year's fairly skeletal format.

As always, I look forward to hearing from Section members about ideas they have for future Section activities or just to kick around ag law issues of interest. Please contact me at aolson@mcdcr-law.com

Articles

"Statutory Agricultural Liens Under Revised Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code," by Susan A. Schneider, associate professor and director, Graduate Program in Agricultural Law, University of Arkansas School of Law

http://www.nationalaglawcenter.org/assets/articles/schneider_agliens.pdf

"World Trade Organization and the Commodity Title of the Next Farm Bill: A Practitioner's View," by Doug O'Brien, co-director, The National Agriculture Law Center, University of Arkansas School of Law

http://www.nationalaglawcenter.org/assets/articles/obrien_wto.pdf