

2014

Forging Careers in Food Law and Policy: Challenges and Opportunities for Law Schools

Allison Condra
Harvard, Cambridge

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/jflp>



Part of the [Food and Drug Law Commons](#), [Legal Education Commons](#), and the [Legal Profession Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Condra, A. (2021). Forging Careers in Food Law and Policy: Challenges and Opportunities for Law Schools. *Journal of Food Law & Policy*, 10(1). Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/jflp/vol10/iss1/5>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@UARK. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Journal of Food Law & Policy* by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@UARK. For more information, please contact ccmiddle@uark.edu.

FORGING CAREERS IN FOOD LAW AND POLICY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAW SCHOOLS

Allison Condra*

I. INTRODUCTION	2
II. BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO FOOD LAW AND POLICY	4
III. CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN FOOD LAW AND POLICY	5
A. <i>Fellowships</i>	6
1. Law School – Clinical Fellowship.....	7
2. Law School – Teaching Fellowship	8
3. Law School – LL.M. Fellowship.....	9
4. Non-Profit Fellowship.....	9
B. <i>Government</i>	11
1. Legislatures.....	12
2. Agencies	13
3. Tribal Governments.....	15
4. Local Government.....	15
C. <i>Non-Profits</i>	16
1. Law-Focused	16
2. Not Law-Focused	19
D. <i>Law Firms</i>	21
E. <i>Academia</i>	22
1. Doctrinal Faculty.....	23
2. Clinical Faculty	23
F. <i>Private Business</i>	24
G. <i>Other</i>	24
IV. OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAW SCHOOLS TO EDUCATE AND EQUIP STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN FOOD LAW AND POLICY	24
A. <i>Classroom</i>	25
1. Survey Courses.....	25

* Clinical Fellow, Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic. B.A., California Lutheran University (2006), J.D., Drake University Law School (Certificate in Food and Agricultural Law) (2011), LL.M. in Agriculture and Food Law, University of Arkansas School of Law (2012). This article is based on a presentation given at the Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting in New York City on January 3, 2014. The author would like to thank Emily Broad Leib, Jay Mitchell, Margot Pollans, and Katherine Record for their thoughtful suggestions and edits.

2. Practice-Based Courses	26
3. Other Courses	26
B. <i>Clinic</i>	27
1. Food Law and Policy Clinics.....	27
2. Other Types of Clinics Doing Food Law and Policy Work	27
C. <i>Internships and Externships</i>	29
D. <i>Career Development Workshops</i>	30
E. <i>Further Study</i>	30
F. <i>Professional Associations</i>	31
V. CONCLUSION.....	31

I. INTRODUCTION

Food Law and Policy (FL&P) is a quickly growing field of legal practice that offers many exciting career opportunities for law students. As national awareness of food and agricultural issues increases, particularly the way laws and policies influence our food system, more law students are demanding that their law schools offer courses, internships, and clinical experiences in this field. Law schools across the country have an opportunity to satisfy this student demand, while at the same time providing students with skills and knowledge that will equip them to engage with the many complex, dynamic, and important issues related to the practice of FL&P. This article seeks to explain to curious and interested legal educators the types of career paths a student might take in the field of FL&P and the ways law schools can provide students the necessary skills and education in order to prepare them for a career in FL&P.

In some ways, this article is an incredibly personal one, drawing on my own experience forging a career in FL&P in the early years of the field's development. Although I am now in the first installment of a career in FL&P (as the first Clinical Fellow in the first clinical program dedicated to FL&P¹), my career path was not always clear. Growing up in Southern California, I was interested in food and health, but had no real connection to agriculture or understanding of the ways in which our food and agricultural laws influence our food system so significantly. With no specific link to the world of agriculture, law, or the existing field of food studies, I was unaware of any career options related to food beyond the

1. HARVARD FOOD LAW & POLICY CLINIC, <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/foodpolicyinitiative/> (last visited May 9, 2014).

medical world—dietitians and doctors—or the retail food world—chefs and other food service positions.

After graduating from college in 2006, I discovered an entire world of other careers in food—food sociology, food writing, food anthropology, and food politics—at the joint conference of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society and the Association for the Study of Food and Society.² I decided that pursuing a master's degree in food policy was the advanced degree I needed in order to have the career I wanted, improving the policies around food and health. When the idea of pursuing a law degree was suggested to me in the fall of 2007, I initially dismissed it. I understood lawyers to be those people who argued in court—something in which I was wholly uninterested—and I had no reason to believe food law existed as a field of study. A short Google search later proved me wrong. As of the fall of 2007, Drake University Law School and the University of Arkansas School of Law were the only law schools that had programs in food and agricultural law. Drake and Arkansas' food and agricultural law programs have been around for nearly thirty years.³

I decided to see what each had to offer. After completing my J.D. with a Certificate in Food and Agricultural Law at Drake University Law School⁴ and my LL.M. in Agricultural and Food Law at the University of Arkansas School of Law,⁵ I began my search for a job in food and agricultural law and policy. In my first week of searching, I came across a listing for a Clinical Fellow position at the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic (FLPC).⁶ The FLPC was established in 2010 and, in the summer of 2012, was looking for their first Clinical Fellow. I pursued the opportunity and have been at the FLPC ever since.

2. AGRIC., FOOD & HUMAN VALUES SOC'Y, HOME, <http://afhvs.org/> (last visited May 9, 2014); ASS'N FOR THE STUDY OF FOOD & SOC'Y, CONFERENCE, <http://www.food-culture.org/conference/> (last visited May 9, 2014).

3. Drake University Law School has a Certificate Program in Food and Agricultural Law. DRAKE UNIV. LAW SCHOOL, FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL LAW CERTIFICATE, <http://www.law.drake.edu/academics/?pageID=foodAgLawCert> (last visited May 9, 2014). The University of Arkansas School of Law has the only LL.M. Program in Agricultural and Food Law. UNIV. OF ARK. SCHOOL OF LAW, LL.M IN AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD LAW, <http://law.uark.edu/academics/llm/> (last visited May 9, 2014); *see also* THE LL.M. PROGRAM IN AGRICULTURAL & FOOD LAW, <http://www.agfoodllm.com/> (last visited May 9, 2014).

4. DRAKE UNIV. LAW SCHOOL, *supra* note 3.

5. UNIV. OF ARK. SCHOOL OF LAW, *supra* note 3; *see also* THE LL.M. PROGRAM IN AGRICULTURAL & FOOD LAW, *supra* note 3.

6. HARVARD FOOD LAW & POLICY CLINIC, APPLY TO BE A CLINICAL FELLOW IN THE FOOD LAW AND POLICY CLINIC, <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/foodpolicyinitiative/2012/06/18/apply-to-be-a-clinical-fellow-in-the-food-law-and-policy-clinic/> (last visited May 9, 2014) [hereinafter *Food Law & Policy Clinic*].

This story is relevant because it not only parallels the growth and development of FL&P as a field of study, but it also illustrates the rapid increase in job opportunities within the field. When I began law school in the fall of 2008, the Clinical Fellowship position at the FLPC did not exist; when I completed my LL.M. program in May 2012, the position was in the process of being created, but was not yet official. Mine was the first position of its kind, yet in the year and a half that I have been at the FLPC, job opportunities within FL&P have expanded at a remarkable pace—other law schools have started fellowship programs; more non-profits are entering into the FL&P world; non-profits that were already engaged in food work are recognizing the importance of policy advocacy to their work. Opportunities are cropping up everywhere (pun intended).

If we operate under the safe assumption that the field of FL&P will continue to mature and that the job opportunities in FL&P for lawyers will expand, how do we, as legal educators, help interested law students understand what FL&P is and what their career opportunities are? How do we help prepare law students for a career in FL&P? This article begins with an introduction to the field of FL&P to help legal educators understand the breadth and depth of the field as well as to set up the discussion of the various career opportunities within the field. The article then provides a discussion of the ways law schools can educate and equip law students to enter a career in FL&P. Finally, the article concludes with a series of questions law schools should consider when deciding how to best prepare their students for a career in FL&P.

II. BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO FOOD LAW AND POLICY⁷

People often assume that FL&P is a small and limited area of law in which to practice and study. The reality is quite to the contrary. It brings together a wide variety of areas of law with a focus on the food system as the common theme. Food law and policy:

includes the study of the laws and regulations that govern the animals, crops, food, and beverages we grow, raise, produce, transport, buy, sell, distribute, share, cook, eat, and drink. It considers federal, state, and local “rules to govern common behavior and shared experiences regarding the available food supply.” Its “policy” component focuses on innumerable food and agricultural

7. See Baylen J. Linnekin & Emily M. Broad Leib, *Food Law and Policy: The Fertile Field's Origins and First Decade* (forthcoming) (on file with author).

issues that illustrate the relationship between the law and its intended and unintended consequences on health, the environment, the economy, and other areas.⁸

It is made up of: agricultural law; food and drug law; constitutional law; property law; land use law; local government law; international trade law; environmental law; contract law; labor law; intellectual property and trademark law; health law; business law; marketing and advertising law; animal law; administrative law; and tribal law, among many others. To illustrate, some of the projects the FLPC works on include: food trucks and mobile vending; urban agriculture; food safety; nutrition assistance programs; technical assistance for food policy councils (including at the local, state, tribal, and international levels); food waste; institutional purchasing of local food; labor laws and the definition of agriculture; and financing opportunities for farmers.⁹ Because FL&P touches on so many topics, a law student interested in any of the types of law listed above would likely find FL&P an exciting and dynamic area of law to study and in which to work. Further, FL&P is an industry-based area of legal study (similar to health law), rather than a discipline-based area of study. As such, the study of FL&P lines up more with the actual practice of law (which tends to be industry-based), rather than most legal disciplines (which are narrower, in some ways).

III. CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN FOOD LAW AND POLICY

As the field of FL&P develops, so do the number and type of career opportunities within FL&P. The FLPC, in collaboration with the Harvard Food Law Society, publishes an annual career guide which provides an in-depth listing of various career opportunities within FL&P. The second edition of the guide, which added a new section and numerous new entries, was published in the summer of 2013 and can be found on the FLPC website.¹⁰ For purposes of this article, I have focused on seven main categories of career opportunities: fellowships; government; non-profits;

8. Baylen J. Linnekin, *Introduction*, in THE FUTURE OF FOOD LAW & POLICY: THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LAWYERS IN THE ACADEMY AND BEYOND, YALE FOOD SYSTEMS SYMPOSIUM 1-2 (2013) (on file with author) (internal citations omitted).

9. HARVARD FOOD LAW & POL'Y CLINIC, PROJECTS, <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/foodpolicy/initiative/food-policy-initiative-projects/> (last visited May 9, 2014) [hereinafter *Projects*].

10. See generally HARVARD FOOD LAW & POL'Y CLINIC, FOOD LAW AND POLICY CAREER GUIDE (2d ed. 2013), available at http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/foodpolicy/initiative/files/2013/07/Career-Guide_2013.pdf.

law firms; academia; private business; and other. Within those seven categories are various sub-categories, each of which will be discussed below.

A. Fellowships

A fellowship is a time-bound position that is generally intended to help launch the fellow into a more permanent position.¹¹ Some institutions that offer fellowships provide a salary or stipend to the fellow; others require the fellow to secure outside funding for their position. Fellowships are traditionally one to two years in length.¹² Although fellowships exist for already practicing attorneys and professors seeking funding to support their research, this discussion focuses on fellowships for recent law school graduates.¹³

We begin with a discussion of fellowships for a few reasons. First, as the field of FL&P is still developing and opportunities in FL&P are not as widespread as other areas of law, participating in a fellowship gives the fellow a secure way to temporarily delay the job search process and wait for more job opportunities within the field to develop. Second, because there are still relatively few law schools that offer FL&P coursework, fellowships offer recent graduates an opportunity to acquire the skills and substantive knowledge about FL&P that they may not have gained during law school. Third, fellowships are generally restricted to recently graduated law students and, therefore, are a great starting place for a career in FL&P. Recent graduates should take advantage of fellowship opportunities because they may not be available to them later in their careers.

There are four main sub-categories of fellowships that FL&P law students can pursue: clinical fellowships at a law school; teaching fellowships at a law school; LL.M fellowships at a law school; and, fellowships at non-profits.

11. See Bryan L. Adamson et al., *The Status of Clinical Faculty in the Legal Academy: Report of the Task Force on the Status of Clinicians and the Legal Academy*, 36 J. LEGAL PROF. 353, 378-79 (2012).

12. See YALE LAW SCHOOL CAREER DEV. OFFICE, PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIPS VOL. 1 5 (2011), available at http://www.law.yale.edu/documents/pdf/CDO_Public/Final_Public_Fellowships__Vol_1.pdf.

13. These fellowships and visiting assistant professorships (VAPs) are not addressed here because it is not apparent that these fellowships and VAPs exist in the field of FL&P; it is entirely possible that at some future date, these types of fellowships and VAPs could focus on FL&P. See COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL, FELLOWSHIPS AND VAPs, <http://web.law.columbia.edu/law-teaching/services-current-candidates/fellowships-vaps>, (last visited May 9, 2014).

1. Law School – Clinical Fellowship

Clinical fellowships offer the fellow an opportunity to gain both practical experience in FL&P, as well as teaching and supervisory skills. The FLPC, the first FL&P clinical program in the country, offers clinical fellowship positions.¹⁴ The mission of the FLPC is “to increase access to healthy foods, prevent diet-related diseases such as obesity and type 2 diabetes, and assist small and sustainable farmers in breaking into new commercial markets.”¹⁵ To that end, clinical fellows work on a range of projects in the FL&P field that provide exposure to a variety of topics—including food safety,¹⁶ local food procurement,¹⁷ urban agriculture,¹⁸ and food waste.¹⁹ FLPC clinical fellows supervise clinical students on these projects, helping students develop important skills—such as problem-solving, policy analysis, research and writing, oral communication, and leadership skills.²⁰

Note that there are also fellowships in other types of non-FL&P specific clinics—such as transactional clinics²¹ and clinics doing other public interest law²²—that engage in some food system work. Potential

14. *Food Law & Policy Clinic, supra* note 6.

15. HARVARD FOOD LAW & POL’Y CLINIC, ABOUT US <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/foodpolicyinitiative/about/about-us/> (last visited May 9, 2014) [hereinafter *About Us*].

16. HARVARD FOOD LAW & POL’Y CLINIC, FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT, COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULES, <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/foodpolicyinitiative/food-policy-initiative-projects/current-projects/food-safety-modernization-act-comments-on-proposed-rules/> (last visited May 9, 2014).

17. HARVARD FOOD LAW & POL’Y CLINIC, LOCAL PROCUREMENT BY MASSACHUSETTS STATE AGENCIES, COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES, <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/foodpolicyinitiative/food-policy-initiative-projects/current-projects/local-procurement-by-massachusetts-state-agencies-colleges-and-universities/> (last visited May 9, 2014).

18. HARVARD FOOD LAW & POL’Y CLINIC, BOSTON URBAN AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE, <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/foodpolicyinitiative/food-policy-initiative-projects/current-projects/boston-urban-agriculture-initiative/> (last visited May 9, 2014).

19. HARVARD FOOD LAW & POL’Y CLINIC, REDUCING FOOD WASTE, <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/foodpolicyinitiative/food-policy-initiative-projects/current-projects/reducing-food-waste/> (last visited May 9, 2014).

20. *About Us, supra* note 15.

21. See, e.g., STANFORD LAW SCHOOL, ORGANIZATIONS & TRANSACTIONS CLINIC: ORRICK HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE CLINICAL TEACHING FELLOWSHIP, <http://www.law.stanford.edu/scholarlylife/fellowships/otc> (last visited May 9, 2014).

22. Prior to her teaching fellowship at UCLA (see discussion below), Margot Pollans held a clinical teaching fellowship in the environmental section of the Institute for Public Representation (IPR) at Georgetown Law School. GEORGETOWN LAW, INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC REPRESENTATION GRADUATE TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS,

fellows may be able to propose that food systems projects be incorporated into the existing clinical project framework.²³

2. Law School – Teaching Fellowship

Students interested in FL&P can also pursue a teaching fellowship. The first teaching fellowship in FL&P was founded at UCLA School of Law in their newly-established Resnick Program for Food Law and Policy.²⁴ Unlike the clinical fellowship where fellows work on FL&P projects for clients, “[t]he fellowship provides law school graduates who are committed to pursuing a career in legal academia an opportunity to teach, and do research and writing at UCLA Law School in preparation for a law teaching career.”²⁵ The teaching fellow is expected to complete at least one scholarly publication and teach at least one course per academic year of the fellowship.²⁶ The fellowship is one year with an option to renew for a second year.²⁷ During the teaching fellowship, the fellow will also prepare to enter the legal academic market upon completion of the fellowship.²⁸

Other schools have general teaching fellowships that allow the fellow to research and/or teach in the field of his or her choice. For example, University of Pennsylvania Law School’s Sharswood Fellowship is a two-

<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/academic-programs/clinical-programs/our-clinics/IPR/ipr-fellowships.cfm> (last visited Mar. 5, 2014). Margot supervised a variety of litigation and administrative matters arising under local, state, and federal law, most of which were not focused on the food system. However, at her request, she was able to take on a food systems project that fit the overall goals and criteria of IPR. Email from Margot Pollans, UCLA Fellow, to author (Feb. 10, 2014) (on file with author).

23. In an email explaining her work at IPR, Margot noted that if a future “fellow had a strong interest in the area, he or she may be able to propose new food systems projects.” *Id.*

24. UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW, RESNICK PROGRAM FOR FOOD LAW AND POLICY, <http://www.law.ucla.edu/centers-programs/resnick-program-for-food-law-and-policy/Pages/default.aspx> (last visited May 9, 2014) [hereinafter *Resnick Program*]; UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW, RESNICK PROGRAM FOR FOOD LAW AND POLICY TEACHING FELLOWSHIP, <https://recruit.apo.ucla.edu/apply/JPF00010> (last visited May 9, 2014).

25. UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW, BIOGRAPHY - MARGOT POLLANS, <http://www.law.ucla.edu/faculty/all-faculty-profiles/Pages/Margot-Pollans.aspx> (last visited May 9, 2014) [hereinafter *Pollans*].

26. *Resnick Program*, *supra* note 24; *Pollans*, *supra* note 25.

27. *Resnick Program*, *supra* note 24

28. *Id.*

year research, writing, and teaching fellowship which requires the fellow to teach two courses and publish at least one scholarly article.²⁹

3. Law School – LL.M. Fellowship

A third fellowship opportunity in FL&P is somewhat of a hybrid fellowship and is illustrated by the LL.M. fellowship offered by Vermont Law School’s Center for Agriculture and Food Systems.³⁰ The mission of the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems is two-fold: “(1) [t]o train the next generation of sustainable food and agriculture law and policy advocates and practitioners in support of robust local and regional food systems; [and] (2) [t]o develop legal tools, disseminate information, and advocate for sustainable agriculture and food systems.”³¹ The fellow supports this mission by teaching, helping develop curriculum, and engaging in advocacy work. Further, as part of this two-year LL.M. fellowship, the fellow takes courses in pursuit of an LL.M. in Environmental Law.³²

4. Non-Profit Fellowship

Students interested in fellowships are not limited to an academic setting. Various non-profits around the country—both law-focused and non law-focused non-profits—accept fellows to participate in the work of the non-profit. The specific projects and skills associated with the fellowship will depend in large part on the type of non-profit in which the student is interested.

First, law students can seek fellowships at non-profit law firms. For example, the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), which uses “the law, science, policymaking, and the business market to find pragmatic, innovative solutions to New England’s toughest environmental problems,”³³ recently founded a “Farm and Food Initiative.”³⁴ The Farm

29. UNIV. OF PA. LAW SCHOOL, ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS, <https://www.law.upenn.edu/faculty/fellowships.php> (last visited May 9, 2014).

30. VT. LAW SCHOOL, CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS LLM FELLOWSHIP, http://www.vermontlaw.edu/Admissions/Tuition_and_Financial_Aid/Fellowships/Center_for_Agriculture_and_Food_Systems_LLM_Fellowship.htm (last visited May 9, 2014).

31. *Id.*

32. *Id.*

33. CONSERVATION LAW FOUND., ABOUT CLF, <http://www.clf.org/about-clf/> (last visited May 9, 2014).

34. CONSERVATION LAW FOUND., FARM AND FOOD INITIATIVE, <http://www.clf.org/our-work/healthy-communities/farm-and-food-initiative/> (last visited May 9, 2014).

and Food Initiative works on issues of urban and peri-urban agriculture in greater Boston as well as creating innovative ways to promote the New England regional food system.³⁵ Elena Mihaly, a recent Vermont Law School graduate, is a CLF fellow working in the Farm and Food Initiative. Her primary work includes developing and launching a network of attorneys providing pro bono services to farmers and food entrepreneurs and identifying and addressing legal and regulatory hurdles to urban agriculture throughout New England.³⁶ Elena's position is funded through the Betsy and Jesse Fink Foundation.³⁷ Elena's story provides an example of ways recent law school graduates can work at non-profits doing FL&P:

I first learned about the Fink Foundation because it provided funding for an internship I had during law school at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) to work on food policy. After an invitation to meet other funded food policy interns from across the Northeast at the Fink's family farm in Connecticut, I began discussing the possibility of the Fink Foundation funding a Food Law Fellowship position for me to continue working on food policy in New England after law school. CLF agreed to host me as a Legal Fellow, and I presented a fellowship proposal to the Fink Foundation. Both Betsy and Jesse Fink see great value in investing in human capital, and they have already awarded funding to a second Food Law Fellow slated to start work at NRDC's New York office in the spring.³⁸

Another example of a law-focused non-profit that hires legal fellows is the Center for Food Safety—"a national non-profit public interest and environmental advocacy organization working to protect human health and the environment by curbing the use of harmful food production technologies and by promoting organic and other forms of sustainable agriculture."³⁹

35. *Id.*

36. Email from Elena Mihaly, CLF Fellow, Farm & Food Initiative, to author (Jan. 13, 2014) (on file with author).

37. JOAN BRIGGS, BETSY & JESSE FINK FOUND., SAFSF JUNE 2013: INVESTING IN HUMAN CAPITAL 16, available at http://www.safsf.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/InvestinginHumanCapital_SAFSF2013_web.pdf.

38. Email from Elena Mihaly, *supra* note 36.

39. CTR. FOR FOOD SAFETY, ABOUT CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY, <http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/about-us> (last visited May 9, 2014).

Second, law students can seek fellowships at non-profits whose work is not primarily law and policy. For example, the NRDC focuses some of its work on the food system, specifically on keeping contaminants out of food, cutting back on toxic pesticides, making sustainable, healthy eating easy, and promoting sustainable food production.⁴⁰ Most recently the NRDC incorporated food and agriculture issues into its environmental work and, with the FLPC, published a comprehensive policy report on food waste caused by date labeling.⁴¹ Nathan Rosenberg, former FLPC clinic student and former joint Harvard Law School and Mississippi State University Delta Fellow, recently secured a legal fellowship at the NRDC. As a Legal Fellow with NRDC, his work “focuses on promoting regional and sustainable food in the greater New York City area and in other parts of the country. . . . [and] includes increasing access to healthy food, particularly among low-income and historically disadvantaged communities.”⁴² The food fellowship at NRDC is a new fellowship and is also funded by the Betsy and Jesse Fink Foundation.⁴³ According to Nathan, “NRDC hopes to continue [the fellowship] in the future, giving more young lawyers the opportunity to gain experience in food law and policy.”⁴⁴

A Fulbright Fellowship is another way recent graduates can work in FL&P. Emilie Aguirre, a former FLPC clinical student, was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for 2013-14 to research the impact of EU agricultural laws on small-scale farming and obesity in the UK and Ireland.⁴⁵ These examples show that if law students can secure post-graduation fellowship money, they are in a good position to approach a FL&P organization for a fellowship whether it has an established fellowship position or not.

B. Government

There are many opportunities to engage in FL&P work at the various levels and branches of government. One benefit of working in state and federal government is the opportunity to engage in policy formation in the

40. NATURAL RES. DEF. COUNCIL, SAFE, SUSTAINABLE FOOD, <http://www.nrdc.org/food/default.asp> (last visited May 9, 2014).

41. NATURAL RES. DEF. COUNCIL, THE DATING GAME: HOW CONFUSING FOOD DATE LABELS LEAD TO FOOD WASTE IN AMERICA, <http://www.nrdc.org/food/expiration-dates.asp> (last visited May 9, 2014).

42. Email from Nathan Rosenberg, NRDC Legal Fellow, to author (Jan. 28, 2014) (on file with author).

43. *Id.*

44. *Id.*

45. FULBRIGHT COMM’N, EMILIE AGUIRRE, <http://www.fulbright.org.uk/about/meet-our-fulbrighters/emilie-aguirre/660> (last visited May 9, 2014).

most fundamental way; government staffers are often on the frontlines of policy formation. Along with this exciting and dynamic aspect of working in state and federal government are some drawbacks—government employees engaged in law and policy formation, enforcement, and compliance must also struggle with the political wrangling and bureaucracy that sometimes results in change happening at a very slow pace. Working on a local level, on the other hand, may come with more flexibility, as local governments often experiment with new ideas and policies more easily. While it is not necessary to have a lawyer fill some of these positions, the skills lawyers bring to a FL&P position can be very beneficial.

1. Legislatures

There are FL&P employment opportunities in legislatures at both the state and federal level. In Congress, the following committees are the main ones that work on food and agricultural law and policy issues:

- Agriculture (Senate and House)⁴⁶
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (Senate)⁴⁷
- Energy and Commerce (House)⁴⁸
- Appropriations (Senate and House)⁴⁹

Further, many members of Congress have staffers that work primarily on food and agricultural issues, often called “Ag LAs” (agriculture legislative assistants).⁵⁰ A legislative assistant becomes a Congress

46. U.S. SENATE COMM. ON AGRIC., NUTRITION & FORESTRY, <http://www.ag.senate.gov/> (last visited May 9, 2014); U.S. HOUSE COMM. ON AGRIC. <http://agriculture.house.gov/> (last visited May 9, 2014).

47. U.S. SENATE COMM. ON HEALTH, EDUC., LABOR, & PENSIONS, <http://www.help.senate.gov/> (last visited May 9, 2014).

48. U.S. HOUSE COMM. ON ENERGY & COMMERCE, <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> (last visited May 9, 2014).

49. U.S. SENATE COMM. ON APPROPRIATIONS, <http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/> (last visited May 9, 2014); U.S. HOUSE COMM. ON APPROPRIATIONS, <http://appropriations.house.gov/> (last visited May 9, 2014). Students may be interested in the following subcommittees, which are same in both the Senate and the House: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies; Energy and Water Development; Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies; Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies; and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.

50. For example, Benjamin Thomas (an alumni of the Arkansas LL.M. program) is the Agriculture LA for Senator Max Baucus. Susan Schneider, *LL.M. Alums Take the Lead at USDA Risk Management Agency*, LL.M. PROGRAM IN AGRIC. & FOOD L. BLOG

member's go-to person for issues involving food and agriculture. The issues an Ag LA will engage with depend largely on where the member of Congress is from and on which committees the member of Congress sits.

State legislatures also have committees that deal with food and agricultural issues. For example, the California State Assembly Committee on Agriculture has primary jurisdiction over areas such as agriculture, the Department of Food and Agriculture, food labeling, marketing law, and milk and milk products, among many other topics.⁵¹ The California State Assembly Committee on Higher Education has authority over FL&P issues such as student health and nutrition.⁵² The California State Assembly Committee on Health oversees some issues that are at the intersection of health and food, for example, health care, health insurance, and public health programs.⁵³ At the state level, there may be more committees and opportunities to engage in FL&P work outside of the traditional agriculture and education committees. For example, the California State Assembly has Select Committees whose work may touch on FL&P issues; some of those Select Committees include: agriculture and the environment; community and neighborhood development; job creation for the new economy; protecting California's food safety systems; regional transportation solutions; small business financing and development opportunities; and sustainable and organic agriculture, among others.⁵⁴ The California Legislature also has joint committees, including a Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture.⁵⁵ As in Congress, there are state level representatives that hire staff to work on food and agriculture issues, which provides another opportunity for law students seeking a career in FL&P.

2. Agencies

A handful of state and federal level agencies have jurisdiction over FL&P issues. At the federal level, the two primary agencies that engage in

(Mar. 21, 2013, 1:14 PM), <http://www.agfoodllm.com/2013/03/llm-alums-take-lead-at-usda-risk.html>.

51. CA. STATE ASSEMBLY, COMM. ON AGRIC., WELCOME TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, <http://agri.assembly.ca.gov/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

52. CA. STATE ASSEMBLY, COMM. ON HIGHER EDUC., 2008 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY 36-39 (2008), *available at* http://aedn.assembly.ca.gov/sites/aedn.assembly.ca.gov/files/publications/2008_Draft_FINAL_REPORT.pdf

53. CA. STATE ASSEMBLY, COMM. ON HEALTH, WELCOME TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, <http://ahea.assembly.ca.gov/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

54. CA. STATE ASSEMBLY, COMMITTEES, <http://assembly.ca.gov/committees#SelectCommittees> (last visited May 9, 2014).

55. CA. STATE ASSEMBLY, JOINT COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE, <http://assembly.ca.gov/fisheries> (last visited May 10, 2014).

FL&P work are the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).⁵⁶ The USDA's jurisdiction is expansive, covering topics from crop insurance and meat slaughter and processing, to beginning farmer programs and school meal programs.⁵⁷ Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has made a concerted effort during his tenure to increase support for local and regional agriculture, for beginning farmers, and for farm-to-institution programs, among other topics that FL&P students may find interesting.⁵⁸ The FDA's work involves a significant amount of traditional food and drug legal work (what some refer to as "FDA Law"), which focuses on drugs, medical devices, radiation-emitting products, animal and veterinary issues, cosmetics, tobacco products, and food (as it relates to food facility safety and food product labeling).⁵⁹ However, with its recent jurisdiction expansion into the regulation of on-farm food safety and an increased expectation to improve the food safety of food facilities domestically and internationally, the FDA's involvement in FL&P issues is now more established.⁶⁰ Further, with FDA's jurisdiction over food labeling (but not for meat products, which is the USDA's territory) and the rise in debate over food labels (e.g., nutrition labeling, organic, GMO, natural, etc.), there will likely be an increased demand for employees that understand the intricacies of FL&P at the FDA.

As with work in legislatures, state-level agencies also provide an option for students to seek employment in FL&P (e.g., in state-level departments of agriculture). Further, state-level attorneys general offices might have opportunities for work in FL&P. For example, the Washington State Office of the Attorney General has an agriculture and health division.⁶¹

56. U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMIN., WHAT WE DO, <http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/default.htm> (last visited May 10, 2014); U.S. DEPT. OF AGRIC., ABOUT USDA, <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome> (last visited May 10, 2014).

57. U.S. DEPT. OF AGRIC., *supra* note 56.

58. U.S. DEPT. OF AGRIC., FARM TO SCHOOL, <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school> (last visited May 10, 2014); U.S. DEPT. OF AGRIC., KNOW YOUR FARMER, KNOW YOUR FOOD, <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/knowyourfarmer?navid=KNOWYOURFARMER> (last visited May 10, 2014); U.S. Dep't of Agric., *Posts Tagged: Beginning Farmers*, U.S. DEPT. OF AGRIC. BLOG, <http://blogs.usda.gov/tag/beginning-farmers/>.

59. *See* U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMIN., *supra* note 56.

60. FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, Pub. L. 111-353, 124 Stat. 3885 (2011).

61. WASH. STATE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GEN., AGRICULTURE & HEALTH DIVISION, <http://www.atg.wa.gov/Divisions/AgricultureHealth.aspx#Uvk0EmJdV8E> (last visited May 10, 2014).

3. Tribal Governments

There is much FL&P work to be done in Indian country across the United States (US).⁶² Within the last five years, the USDA established an Office of Tribal Relations, the purpose of which is to engage with tribal leaders on issues of food and agricultural law and policy.⁶³ Tribal governments, such as the government of the Navajo Nation, are increasing their engagement with the food policy issues that face their nations.⁶⁴ For example, the Navajo Nation Council recently “approved an additional 2-percent sales tax on so-called ‘junk foods,’ including all sugary beverages” and eliminated the “5-percent sales tax on fresh fruits and vegetables and nutritious snacks such as seeds and nuts.”⁶⁵ As with other levels of government, tribal governments across the country provide another opportunity for law students to engage in FL&P.

4. Local Government

As indicated by the rise of government sponsored food policy councils and food policy directors or advisors, state and local governments are increasingly recognizing the value of having staff that focus on food policy issues.⁶⁶ As of 2013, thirteen cities in the US have a paid local food policy director.⁶⁷ For example, New York City (NYC) has a Mayor’s

62. See also UNIV. OF ARK. SCHOOL OF LAW, THE INDIGENOUS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE, <http://law.uark.edu/ifai/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

63. U.S. DEPT. OF AGRIC., OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELATIONS, ABOUT THE OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELATIONS, <http://usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=OTR> (last visited May 10, 2014).

64. HARVARD FOOD LAW & POL’Y CLINIC, NAVAJO NATION FOOD POLICY LEGISLATION, <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/foodpolicyinitiative/food-policy-initiative-projects/current-projects/navajo-nation-food-policy-legislation/> (last visited May 10, 2014); see also NAVAJO NATION TRADITIONAL AGRIC. OUTREACH, ABOUT NNTAO, <http://nntao.org/about-us.html> (last visited May 10, 2014).

65. Dan Flynn, *Navajo Nation Hikes Sales Taxes on “Junk Foods,” Makes Healthy Food Choices Tax-Free*, FOODSAFETYNEWS.COM, Feb. 3, 2014, <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2014/02/navajo-nation-increases-sales-taxes-on-junk-food-and-makes-healthy-choices-tax-free>.

66. See MOLLY HATFIELD, OR. BUREAU OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY, CITY FOOD POLICY AND PROGRAMS: LESSONS HARVESTED FROM AN EMERGING FIELD app. A (2012), available at <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/416389>; Emily Broad Leib, *All (Food) Politics is Local: Increasing Food Access through Local Government Action*, 7 HARV. L. & POL’Y REV. 321, 322 (2013).

67. HATFIELD, OR. BUREAU OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY, *supra* note 66, at app. A.

Office of Food Policy;⁶⁸ Boston has a Mayor's Office of Food Initiatives;⁶⁹ Los Angeles (LA) has a Mayor's Senior Advisor on Food Policy;⁷⁰ Seattle has an Office of Sustainability and Environment that focuses part of its work on food issues and food policy;⁷¹ and Baltimore has a Baltimore City Food Policy Director.⁷² The NYC Mayor's Office of Food Policy director position and the LA Mayor's Senior Advisor on Food Policy position have both been held by lawyers at one point in time.⁷³ As more local governments come to recognize the value of addressing food policy issues on a local level, law students with experience in FL&P may find numerous opportunities in local governments across the country.

C. Non-Profits

With every year that passes, there are more non-profits that are working to improve the food system—from the local level all the way up to the international level and on a wide variety of topics. FL&P students may consider seeking employment at a non-profit; the critical thinking, research, and writing skills that lawyers bring to non-profit work are great assets. Some non-profits working in the food world focus on providing legal services or working on law-related projects; other non-profits are not specifically focused on law and policy, but could benefit from having a lawyer on staff in some capacity (such as the Executive Director).

1. Law-Focused

There are a few different categories of law-focused non-profits that might be of interest to students seeking a career in FL&P. First, there are non-profits that work on a specific topic within the food and agriculture

68. NYC FOOD, ABOUT NYC FOOD, <http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycfood/html/about/about.shtml> (last visited May 10, 2014).

69. CITY OF BOS., OFFICE OF FOOD INITIATIVES, <http://www.cityofboston.gov/food/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

70. *L.A. Mayor Appoints Senior Advisor for Food Policy*, L.A. TIMES DAILY DISH BLOG (July 1, 2011, 10:32 AM), <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/dailydish/2011/07/la-mayor-appoints-senior-advisor-for-food-policy.html> [hereinafter L.A. TIMES].

71. CITY OF SEATTLE, OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT, <http://www.seattle.gov/environment/food.htm> (last visited May 10, 2014).

72. CITY OF BALT., PLANNING/BALTIMORE FOOD POLICY INITIATIVE, <http://www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Planning/BaltimoreFoodPolicyInitiative.aspx> (last visited May 10, 2014).

73. Ed Yowell, *Q&A with Kim Kessler, the City's New Food Policy Coordinator*, FOOD SYSTEMS NETWORK NYC, Feb. 25, 2011, <http://www.foodsystems.nyc.org/articles/kim-kessler-interview>; L.A. TIMES *supra* note 70.

system. Second, there are non-profits that provide legal services to specific players within the food and agriculture system. Finally, there are non-profits whose work touches on food and agriculture issues, but which primarily focus on another issue or area of law.

The Fisheries Law Centre (FLC) is an example of a law-focused non-profit whose work is dedicated to a specific topic within the food system. The FLC was started by an Arkansas LL.M. alumnus and seeks “to conduct research in the field of fisheries, aquaculture, and seafood laws and regulations; to build capacity by educating law students, lawyers, and other stakeholders in the area of fisheries law; and to facilitate legal representation to underprivileged small-scale fishers and NGOs wherever possible.”⁷⁴ Although the FLC specifically focuses on fisheries and seafood law, this should not suggest that their work is limited; there are numerous legal issues that fall under the umbrella of fisheries and seafood law.⁷⁵ The Center for Food Safety (CFS) is another example of a non-profit working on a specific food and agriculture topic.⁷⁶ The CFS, however, defines food safety broadly—their work includes: genetic engineering; seeds; pollinators and pesticides; food and climate; aquaculture; factory farms; organics; nanotechnology; irradiation; and mad cow disease, among other topics.⁷⁷ If law students are interested in a specific FL&P topic, they may want to research whether a law-focused non-profit exists that specializes in their area of interest. If not, the law student may consider starting his own non-profit to engage in their area of interest.

The Farmers Legal Action Group (FLAG) and Farm Commons (FC) are examples of non-profit organizations that provide low-cost legal services to a specific category of people—in this case, farmers. FLAG was established in the 1980s as a response to the farm credit crisis in which hundreds of thousands of farmers were forced off their land, and has become a leader in representing the concerns of farmers to lawmakers.⁷⁸ The attorneys at FLAG represent farmers on a variety of topics—including

74. THE FISHERIES LAW CTR., WELCOME TO FLC, <http://fishlaw.org/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

75. *Id.*

76. CTR. FOR FOOD SAFETY, ABOUT CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY, <http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/about-us> (last visited May 10, 2014).

77. CTR. FOR FOOD SAFETY, ISSUES, <http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/issues> (last visited May 10, 2014).

78. FARMERS' LEGAL ACTION GRP., ABOUT US, <http://www.flaginc.org/about/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

issues of farm credit,⁷⁹ discrimination,⁸⁰ and farmland preservation⁸¹—and have extensive experience representing farmers through the administrative appeal process associated with USDA farm programs.⁸² FC describes itself as a “nonprofit legal services organization dedicated to providing farmers with the proactive legal counsel they need to become the stable, resilient foundation of a community-based food system.”⁸³ FC was started by Rachel Armstrong, a young lawyer whose purpose for going to law school was to create a non-profit that provided affordable legal services to farmers in the local food system.⁸⁴ FC provides education and training on legal issues facing small-scale and sustainable farmers as well as transactional legal services.⁸⁵

Finally, there are law-focused non-profits that work on a broad set of issues that include food and agricultural issues. For example, the Sustainable Economies Law Center (SELC) “charts the changing legal territory of the new economy, educating communities and individuals about the possibilities and limits of creative economic structures, and advocating for laws that clear the way for more sustainable economic development.”⁸⁶ The SELC focuses their work on topics such as cooperatives, community currencies, community enterprise, local investing, cohousing, urban agriculture, and other food topics.⁸⁷ California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.

79. FARMERS’ LEGAL ACTION GRP., TOPIC: CREDIT, <http://www.flaginc.org/topic/credit/> (last visited May 10, 2014) (FLAG’s services include advising and assisting farmers who believe they were wrongly denied credit).

80. FARMERS’ LEGAL ACTION GRP., TOPIC: CIVIL RIGHTS, <http://www.flaginc.org/topic/civil-rights/> (last visited May 10, 2014) (FLAG dedicates between one-third and one-half of its work to providing legal assistance and education to immigrant and minority farmers and ranchers to help address the discrimination many of these farmers face).

81. FARMERS’ LEGAL ACTION GRP., TOPIC: FARMLAND PRESERVATION, <http://www.flaginc.org/topic/farmland-preservation/> (last visited May 10, 2014) (FLAG’s services include informing farmers about existing farmland preservation programs in Minnesota and advising farmers about their eligibility for those programs).

82. FARMERS’ LEGAL ACTION GRP., TOPIC: APPEALS, <http://www.flaginc.org/topic/appeals/> (last visited May 10, 2014) (noting that “FLAG attorneys have a deep and thorough knowledge of USDA’s National Appeals Division (NAD) regulations and have literally ‘written the book’ about the program. FLAG is able to inform and advise farmers about how to navigate through the NAD appeals system”).

83. FARM COMMONS, OUR VALUES, <http://farmcommons.org/about/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

84. *Id.*

85. *Id.*

86. THE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES LAW CTR., WHAT WE DO, <http://www.theselc.org/what-we-do/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

87. *Id.*; THE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES LAW CENTER, FOOD, <http://www.theselc.org/food/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

and the Watsonville Law Center both provide legal services and education to low-income individuals in rural communities in California.⁸⁸ These two non-profits aim to address issues of economic inequality and to help individuals “understand, exercise, and enforce their rights.”⁸⁹ Because of their locations and focus on low-income communities, much of the work of these two non-profits is with farm worker and migrant communities.⁹⁰ Law students should not overlook these types of non-profits, particularly if the non-profit’s overall mission is in line with the values of the law student. It is not difficult to find a connection to FL&P in other types of non-profit work, which opens up the number of career opportunities law students can seek.

2. Not Law-Focused

Non-profits that work on food issues but are not specifically focused on legal issues are also a great place for a FL&P student to seek employment. Some of these non-profits are not engaged in law or policy work at all. There are quite a few, however, that do some work that is law related (e.g., policy work⁹¹ or work that addresses legal needs of farmers, such as land transactions and access to credit).⁹² For example, there are non-profits that focus on food and agricultural education in primary schools,⁹³ purchasing of local food products by institutions,⁹⁴ improving

88. CAL. RURAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE, INC., ABOUT US, <http://www.crla.org/about-us> (last visited May 10, 2014); WATSONVILLE LAW CTR., ABOUT US, http://watsonvillelawcenter.org/about_us/ (last visited May 10, 2014).

89. CAL. RURAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE, INC., SERVICES & PROGRAMS, <http://www.crla.org/services-and-programs> (last visited May 10, 2014); WATSONVILLE LAW CTR., *supra* note 88.

90. CAL. RURAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE, INC., *supra* note 89; WATSONVILLE LAW CTR., *supra* note 88.

91. *See, e.g.*, NAT’L SUSTAINABLE AGRIC. COAL., ABOUT US, <http://sustainableagriculture.net/about-us/> (last visited May 10, 2014) (engaging in policy advocacy on a national level and building capacity within member organizations to engage in policy advocacy).

92. *See* CAL. FARMLINK, ABOUT US, <http://www.californiafarmlink.org/about-us> (last visited May 10, 2014) (helping farmers access land, loans, and other financial resources).

93. *See, e.g.*, FOOD CORPS, ABOUT US, <https://foodcorps.org/about> (last visited May 10, 2014); THE EDIBLE SCHOOLYARD PROJECT, OUR HISTORY, <http://edibleschoolyard.org/our-story> (last visited May 10, 2014).

94. *See* FARM TO INST. NEW ENG., ABOUT US, <http://www.farmtoinstitution.org/about-us.html> (last visited May 10, 2014); MASS. FARM TO SCHOOL PROJECT, ABOUT, <http://www.massfarmtoschool.org/about-us> (last visited May 10, 2014); NAT’L FARM

school food,⁹⁵ urban agriculture,⁹⁶ domestic agriculture,⁹⁷ international agriculture,⁹⁸ local and regional food systems,⁹⁹ rural issues,¹⁰⁰ animal agriculture,¹⁰¹ anti-hunger and nutrition assistance,¹⁰² land conservation,¹⁰³

TO SCHOOL NETWORK, ABOUT, <http://www.farmtoschool.org/about> (last visited May 10, 2014).

95. ORFALEA FOUND., SCHOOL FOOD INITIATIVE, <http://www.orfaleafoundation.org/focus-areas/education/school-food> (last visited May 10, 2014).

96. See COLUMBIA CTR. FOR URBAN AGRIC., ABOUT US, <http://www.columbiaurbanag.org/about-us/> (last visited May 10, 2014); REVISION INT'L, PURPOSE, <http://www.revisioninternational.org/purpose/> (last visited May 10, 2014); THE CTR. FOR URBAN AGRIC. AT FAIRVIEW GARDENS, MISSION & VISION, <http://www.fairviewgardens.org/who-we-are/mission-vision/> (last visited May 10, 2014); URBAN FARMING INST. OF BOS., ABOUT, <http://urbanfarming.institute.wordpress.com/urban-farming-institute-at-a-glance/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

97. FARMERS FEEDING THE WORLD, http://www.agweb.com/farmersfeedingtheworld/about_us.aspx (last visited May 10, 2014); Lauren Bernadett, *LL.M. Alumna Margie Alsbrook Joins Farm Journal Foundation as Director of Operations*, LL.M. PROGRAM IN AGRIC. & FOOD L. BLOG (Oct. 26, 2013, 9:53 PM), <http://www.agfoodllm.com/2013/10/llm-alumna-margie-alsbrook-joins-farm.html>. Farm Journal Foundation recently posted a job announcement seeking a Senior Advisor for Policy and Advocacy. SENIOR ADVISOR FOR POLICY AND ADVOCACY FOR FARM JOURNAL FOUNDATION, http://www.agweb.com/assets/1/6/020414_Senior%20Advisor%20for%20Policy%20and%20Advocacy%20for%20Farm%20Journal%20Foundation.pdf. (last visited May 10, 2014).

98. See, e.g., ONE ACRE FUND, JOB OPENINGS, <http://www.oneacrefund.org/careers/job-openings> (last visited May 10, 2014). The One Acre Fund “invests in farmers [in Kenya, Rwanda, and Burundi] to generate a permanent gain in farm income . . . [by] provid[ing] a ‘market bundle’ that includes education, finance, seed and fertilizer, and market access.” In January, the One Acre Fund posted a job listing for a Policy and Communications Analyst, noting that a potential project might include “an analysis of a new draft of U.S. global food security act, with a recommendation on an official OAF position on the Act.” ONE ACRE FUND, ANALYST TO U.S. DIRECTOR, <http://www.mojalink.com/job/show/786> (last visited May 10, 2014).

99. See NEW ENG. FARMERS UNION, ABOUT US, <http://www.newenglandfarmersunion.org/about-us/> (last visited May 10, 2014); TEN RIVERS FOOD WEB, ABOUT TRFW, <http://www.tenriversfoodweb.org/about-trfw/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

100. See, e.g., CTR. FOR RURAL AFFAIRS, OUR MISSION AND OUR VALUES, http://www.cfra.org/about/values_mission (last visited May 10, 2014).

101. See, e.g., FARM FORWARD, WELCOME TO FARM FORWARD, <http://www.farmforward.com/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

102. See, e.g., BREAD FOR THE WORLD, WHAT WE DO, <http://www.bread.org/what-we-do> (last visited May 10, 2014); CONG. HUNGER CTR., ABOUT US, <http://www.hungercenter.org/about/> (last visited May 10, 2014); GREATER BOS. FOOD BANK, OUR MISSION, <http://gbfb.org/our-mission/about-gbfb.php> (last visited May 10, 2014); HEIFER INT'L, ABOUT HEIFER INTERNATIONAL, <http://www.heifer.org/about-heifer/index.html> (last visited May 10, 2014).

young and beginning farmers,¹⁰⁴ native American agriculture,¹⁰⁵ veterans involved in agriculture,¹⁰⁶ and small-farm financing.¹⁰⁷ University extension programs also provide an interesting opportunity for research, education, and community engagement on a variety of food and agriculture topics.¹⁰⁸ The issues that these non-profits work on certainly have legal and policy implications, and as non-profits recognize the benefits of engaging in policy discussions, there may be more job opportunities for lawyers.

D. Law Firms

Law students interested in FL&P can also seek employment in law firms. There are larger law firms that do more traditional agricultural and FDA law.¹⁰⁹ There are also smaller law firms that work with smaller-scale farmers and food entrepreneurs on FL&P issues. For example, the Food Law Firm is a small law firm out of New York City that was founded in 2011 by Jason Foscolo, also an Arkansas LL.M. alumnus.¹¹⁰ The Food

103. See QUIVIRA COAL., ABOUT US, <http://quiviracoalition.org/index.html> (last visited May 10, 2014); AM. FARMLAND TRUST, OUR WORK, <http://www.farmland.org/programs/default.asp> (last visited May 10, 2014).

104. See BEGINNING FARMER NETWORK OF MASS., ABOUT, <http://www.bfnmass.org/about> (last visited May 10, 2014); NAT'L YOUNG FARMERS COAL., OUR MISSION, VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES, <http://www.youngfarmers.org/about/our-work/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

105. See, e.g., INTERTRIBAL AGRIC. COUNCIL, <http://www.indianaglink.com/who-we-are/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

106. See, e.g., FARMER VETERAN COAL., ABOUT US, <http://www.farmvetco.org/about-us> (last visited May 10, 2014).

107. See, e.g., THE CARROT PROJECT, ABOUT US, <http://thecarrotproject.org/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

108. See IOWA STATE UNIV. EXTENSION & OUTREACH - BEGINNING FARMER CTR., OBJECTIVES <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/bfc/objectives> (last visited May 10, 2014); OR. STATE UNIV. EXTENSION SERV., WHO WE ARE, <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/about/who-we-are> (last visited May 10, 2014); S.D. STATE UNIV., SDSU EXTENSION, <http://www.sdstate.edu/sdsuextension/index.cfm> (last visited May 10, 2014). In January, SDSU Extension posted a job listing for a Community Food Policy Extension Field Specialist. COMMUNITY FOOD POLICY FIELD SPECIALIST I, HIGHEREDJOBS, <http://www.higheredjobs.com/m/details.cfm?JobCode=175850891&Title=Community%20Food%20Policy%20Extension%20Field%20Specialist%20I> (last visited May 10, 2014). The purpose of the position is to “bring policy-informing research together with outreach and engagement activities to further foster community food councils as an important factor in healthy communities and families.” *Id.*

109. See FAEGRE BAKER DANIELS, FOOD & AGRICULTURE, <http://www.faegrebd.com/foodag> (last visited May 10, 2014); STOEL RIVES LLP, FOOD AND AGRIBUSINESS, <http://www.stoel.com/showindustry.aspx?show=634> (last visited May 10, 2014)

110. THE FOOD LAW FIRM, ABOUT, www.foodlawfirm.com/about (last visited May 10, 2014). The Food Law Firm now has a second attorney on staff, Lauren Handel,

Law Firm provides a variety of business services to their clients, including on issues such as food labeling, food product liability, farm leasing, land use and zoning, and corporate formation.¹¹¹

Additionally, Fare Grange Law is a small law firm out of Minneapolis that describes itself as a boutique public-interest law firm that focuses on helping small and mid-size farm and food businesses grow and thrive.¹¹² Formed in 2013, Fare Grange Law provides legal services, such as business entity formation, CSA agreement drafting, and labor and employment compliance for farmers and food entrepreneurs;¹¹³ policy consulting for advocacy organizations;¹¹⁴ and assistance for lawyers seeking to provide legal services to these farm and food clients.¹¹⁵

Finally, Law for Food LLC, founded in 2010¹¹⁶ and based out of Vermont, “hope[s] to bring about nothing short of a revolution in American agriculture” by supporting small farmers, food producers, and the local food economy.¹¹⁷ These three law firms are all very small—with two or three attorneys on staff—but are creating a model for other law firms that seek to work in FL&P.

E. *Academia*

Law students interested in a career in FL&P should also consider a career in academia. As more law schools incorporate food law (and other FL&P courses) into their course offerings, there will be a greater demand for professors that can fill the need. Further, as law schools create food law clinics or centers, they will need directors and faculty to run and staff those programs.

who is also an Arkansas LL.M. alumna. THE FOOD LAW FIRM, ATTORNEYS, <http://www.foodlawfirm.com/attorneys/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

111. THE FOOD LAW FIRM, SERVICES, <http://www.foodlawfirm.com/services/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

112. FARE GRANGE LAW, ABOUT US, <http://faregrange.com/about-us> (last visited May 10, 2014).

113. FARE GRANGE LAW, LEGAL SERVICES FOR FARMERS, <http://faregrange.com/farmers/> (last visited May 10, 2014); FARE GRANGE LAW, LEGAL SERVICES FOR FOOD BUSINESSES, <http://faregrange.com/food-businesses/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

114. FARE GRANGE LAW, LEGAL COUNSEL FOR ADVOCATES, <http://faregrange.com/advocacy-organizations/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

115. FARE GRANGE LAW, LEGAL CONSULTING FOR ATTORNEYS, <http://faregrange.com/attorney-consulting/> (last visited May 10, 2014).

116. LAW FOR FOOD FACEBOOK PAGE, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Law-for-Food/316700191396?id=316700191396&sk=info> (last visited May 10, 2014).

117. LAW FOR FOOD L.L.C., PHILOSOPHY, http://www.lawforfood.com/Law_for_Food/Philosophy.html (last visited May 10, 2014).

1. Doctrinal Faculty

Over the last few years, more law schools have started offering FL&P courses.¹¹⁸ Some of these courses are survey courses (e.g., introduction to food law) and others are more specific (e.g., selected issues in food law).¹¹⁹ There are many topics that can be covered in a course in FL&P and there are many ways a course could be taught. As of the publication of this article, no casebook or textbook exists for FL&P. This means that teaching a course in FL&P requires a certain level of creativity and dedication on the part of the professor to create a course on his or her own. Luckily, with the increase in FL&P courses being taught around the country, there will be a library of resources that new FL&P professors can access when crafting their own course.

2. Clinical Faculty

There are a handful of law schools that offer clinical programs specifically in FL&P or do food work as part of an already existing clinic. For example, the FLPC at Harvard is currently the only clinical program specifically dedicated to FL&P;¹²⁰ the Organizations and Transactions Clinic at Stanford Law School dedicates a significant portion of its work to food and sustainable agriculture issues;¹²¹ and the University of New Hampshire School of Law's Administrative Agency Clinic places students in the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food to get hands-on experience in FL&P.¹²² If current trends continue—both in terms of the interest in FL&P and the need for law schools to provide more practical experience to their students—in the coming years, more law schools will be starting clinics that focus on food and agricultural issues or will be incorporating food work into clinics that already exist at their schools.¹²³ Either way, there will be a need for staff and faculty that have backgrounds in FL&P to fill those slots.

118. Linnekin & Broad Leib, *supra* note 7.

119. *Id.*

120. HARVARD FOOD LAW & POLICY CLINIC, *supra* note 1.

121. STANFORD LAW SCHOOL, ORGANIZATIONS AND TRANSACTIONS CLINIC, <http://www.law.stanford.edu/organizations/clinics/organizations-and-transactions-clinic> (last visited May 10, 2014) [hereinafter *Org. & Transactions Clinic*].

122. UNIV. OF N.H. SCHOOL OF LAW, CLINICS: ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY, <http://law.unh.edu/academics/clinics/administrative-agency> (last visited May 11, 2014) [hereinafter *Clinics*].

123. See Jay A. Mitchell, *Getting into the Field*, 7 J. FOOD L. & POL'Y 69, 81-86 (2011).

F. *Private Business*

Law students might also consider seeking employment with a private business within the food and agriculture industry—for example, with producers, processors, distributors, and retailers. Most large private food businesses have in-house counsel. The food and agriculture industry plays a significant role in FL&P, and law students should not overlook industry as a source of employment.

G. *Other*

The previous sections have briefly discussed a handful of career options for law students interested in FL&P. However, there is an almost endless number of ways a law student can have a career in FL&P. A few other options that deserve mentioning include: consulting work; international work (in government, non-profits, or academia); and academic work at an undergraduate institution (e.g., teaching food policy).

The common theme among almost all of these career options is the need for law students and law schools to think creatively about the kind of career the law student may want. When I started law school, the job I currently hold did not exist. I had to trust that by the time I completed my studies a job that fit my skills and interests would then exist. In the coming years, job opportunities will be created that law students now may not be able to imagine. Further, if a law student does not find a career opportunity in FL&P that seems to fit his or her desires and skills, he or she may have to take the initiative to create the job they want. Many of the current career opportunities within the field of FL&P are the result of that entrepreneurial drive and commitment to the field.

IV. OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAW SCHOOLS TO EDUCATE AND EQUIP STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN FOOD LAW AND POLICY

A growing number of law students want careers in FL&P. This is illustrated, in part, by the rapid rise in FL&P student groups across the country,¹²⁴ including Harvard,¹²⁵ Wisconsin,¹²⁶ UCLA,¹²⁷ Texas,¹²⁸ and

124. Linnekin & Broad Leib, *supra* note 7.

125. HARVARD FOOD LAW SOC'Y, <http://www3.law.harvard.edu/orgs/foodlaw> (last visited May 11, 2014).

126. WIS. AGRIC. & FOOD LAW SOC'Y, <http://hosted.law.wisc.edu/wordpress/wafis/> (last visited May 11, 2014).

127. UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW, FOOD LAW SOCIETY, <http://orgs.law.ucla.edu/fls/Pages/default.aspx> (last visited May 11, 2014).

Washington.¹²⁹ Law schools have the chance to meet that student demand in a number of ways, including through coursework, clinics, internships, career development workshops, and further study. Not all law schools will be able to use all of these methods to equip their students, but all law schools should be able to use at least one of these ways to help prepare their students for a career in FL&P.

Many of the skills needed for a career in FL&P are not very different from the skills law students need to be competent lawyers—for example, strong legal and policy research and writing skills; written and oral advocacy skills; litigation, transaction, and negotiation skills; basic business skills; client and community interaction skills (e.g., active listening and interviewing); and time and project management skills. Students interested in a career in FL&P also need to focus intensely on learning how to communicate in plain and simple terms (i.e., non-legalese that is accessible to those outside of the field of law). Finally, whether in a course or experiential learning experience, students seeking a career in FL&P need to learn the substantive law that informs FL&P work (e.g., environmental law, FDA law, real property law, administrative law, and constitutional law).

A. Classroom

Incorporating FL&P into coursework is the first way law schools can help prepare law students for a career in FL&P. Teaching FL&P in the classroom is a fairly simple first step for law schools to begin engaging with FL&P. There are three categories of coursework into which law schools can incorporate FL&P: survey courses; practice-based courses; and other existing courses.

1. Survey Courses

Survey courses on FL&P are an important and relatively easy way for law schools to enter the FL&P field. A survey course on food law and policy, as well as agricultural law, will give interested law students a good foundation for a future career in FL&P. So far in my career, I have taken two food law courses and helped teach one food law course. The three courses were each structured and taught in a distinct way, illustrating the

128. TEX. FOOD LAW SOC'Y, <http://www.texasfoodlawsociety.com/home.html> (last visited May 11, 2014).

129. UNIV. OF WASH. SCHOOL OF LAW, UWLAW: STUDENT JOURNALS AND ORGANIZATIONS, <http://www.law.washington.edu/students/orgs/> (last visited May 11, 2014).

flexibility a law professor has in creating his or her own FL&P course. One course provided an introduction to some of the major food policy issues of the time and engaged with more traditional FDA law material (e.g., rules and regulations about the nutrition fact panel, health claims, and ingredient lists). The second FL&P course took a broader, 30,000-foot view on a wide variety food policy issues and provided an overview of the history of FL&P. Finally, the third FL&P course was a seminar style course with extensive reading and a closer connection to health law and policy. All of these course-styles provide students with an introduction into many of the issues faced in the practice of FL&P. A survey course is important because it gives students a foundation upon which to build further study—whether independent study, in an advanced course, or other experience.

2. Practice-Based Courses

Practice-based courses provide students with practical skills within a classroom setting. There is an environmental law practice course at Drake University Law School which teaches students how to write a client memo, to negotiate a settlement, to take a deposition with a hired court reporter, to write a motion for summary judgment, and to argue that motion as if in front of an appellate court.¹³⁰ To my knowledge, there are not yet any FL&P practice courses at any law schools. For law schools that do not have a clinical program in which students can participate (either a dedicated FL&P clinic or a clinic that does FL&P work), creating a practice-based course that teaches students skills they will need to have a career in FL&P is a great option.

3. Other Courses

As mentioned in Section II, FL&P touches on many areas of law—constitutional law, administrative law, environmental law, products liability, and state and local government, to name a few. Law schools need to recognize that many courses already taught at their schools can prepare law students for a career in FL&P. It is important for law schools to convey to students interested in FL&P that many courses will help prepare them. Other courses that will help prepare students for a career in FL&P include (in addition to the ones mentioned earlier): legislation, Native American law, wind law, tax law, international law, business associations, and land use.

130. JERRY L. ANDERSON & DENNIS D. HIRSCH, ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PRACTICE: PROBLEMS AND EXERCISES FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT 95 (2nd ed. 2003).

B. Clinic

Another way law schools can prepare students for a career in FL&P is to provide opportunities for clinical experience in FL&P. Law schools can create a clinic dedicated to FL&P, or can integrate food work into already existing clinics.¹³¹

1. Food Law and Policy Clinics

Founded in 2010, Harvard's FLPC was the first law school clinic to focus on FL&P issues.¹³² The FLPC works with clients on a variety of projects that span the food system, including providing technical assistance to food policy councils; researching and writing comments on proposed food safety regulations; and creating a guide to help urban farmers navigate the permits and approvals required to operate an urban farm in Boston.¹³³ The FLPC works with a variety of clients—including food policy councils, non-profits, individuals, and governments—and aims to provide students with a range of skills—including legal and policy research and writing, public speaking, policy advocacy, and community engagement.¹³⁴

Michigan State University College of Law (MSU) also has a dedicated FL&P clinic, called the Urban Food, Farm and Agricultural Law Clinic.¹³⁵ MSU Urban Food, Farm and Agricultural Law Clinic “provides services—involving such things as legal research, policy development, client counseling, and the provision of transactional legal services—to nonprofits and low-income individuals working with urban agriculture in Detroit, Michigan, and other urban settings.”¹³⁶

2. Other Types of Clinics Doing Food Law and Policy Work

A number of law schools have incorporated FL&P work into already existing clinics, such as transactional law clinics and administrative law clinics.¹³⁷ For example, Stanford's Organizations and Transactions Clinic works with clients that are involved in “sustainable agriculture, food

131. See generally Mitchell, *supra* note 123.

132. See *About Us*, *supra* note 15.

133. See *Projects*, *supra* note 9.

134. *Id.*

135. MICH. STATE UNIV. COLL. OF LAW, URBAN FOOD, FARM & AGRICULTURE LAW PRACTICUM, <http://www.law.msu.edu/clinics/food/> (last visited May 11, 2014).

136. *Id.*

137. Linnekin & Broad Leib, *supra* note 7.

security, small-scale farming and agricultural education.”¹³⁸ Penn State’s Dickinson School of Law launched a Rural Economic Development Clinic in 2010, which seeks to “encourag[e] sustainable economic development by representing clients in agricultural, food, and energy sectors.”¹³⁹ As mentioned earlier, the University of New Hampshire has an administrative law clinic that places students in the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food to get hands-on experience in FL&P.¹⁴⁰

Law schools can consider whether any of their established clinics could integrate FL&P work into their practice. For example, an environmental law clinic could write comments on the environmental impact statement associated with the Produce Safety Rule, which is part of the Food Safety Modernization Act that regulates on-farm food safety practices.¹⁴¹ In 2013, staff attorneys and clinical students at the Institute for Public Representation at Georgetown University Law Center conducted an analysis of the proposed Produce Safety Rule and Preventive Controls Rule of the Food Safety Modernization act on behalf of Future Harvest—A Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture.¹⁴² Additionally, staff attorneys and clinical students at the Turner Environmental Law Clinic at Emory University School of Law wrote comments to the proposed Produce Safety Rule in 2013; as a result of these comments, the FDA has agreed to conduct an environmental impact statement, which it had initially refused to do.¹⁴³ An international or trade law clinic might consider working on the

138. See *Org. & Transactions Clinic*, *supra* note 121.

139. *Penn State Law to Launch New Rural Economic Development Clinic*, PENN STATE NEWS, July 30, 2010, <http://news.psu.edu/story/165918/2010/07/30/penn-state-law-launch-new-rural-economic-development-clinic>; PENN STATE: THE DICKINSON SCHOOL OF LAW, RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CLINIC, <https://law.psu.edu/practice-skills/clinics/rural-economic-development-clinic> (last visited May 11, 2014).

140. See *Clinics*, *supra* note 122.

141. Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Rule, Standards for Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption; Extension of Comment Period, 78 Fed. Reg. 69,006, 69,006 (Nov. 18, 2013).

142. Email from Margot Pollans, UCLA Fellow, to author (Feb. 11, 2014) (on file with author).

143. EMORY LAW, TURNER ENVTL. LAW CLINIC, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, <http://www.law.emory.edu/academics/academic-programs/environmental-law/turner-clinic/our-work.htm> (last visited Mar. 7, 2014) (noting that “[i]n an effort to promote sustainable agriculture, on behalf of Georgia Organics and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, the Clinic has: worked closely with the City of Atlanta in amending its zoning ordinances to permit urban agriculture; published a comprehensive, sixteen-city survey of urban agriculture practices across the country; and prepared comments on the Food and Drug Administration’s proposed regulations governing the growing and harvesting of produce”).

upcoming Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership trade negotiations, which addresses local procurement issues.¹⁴⁴

C. Internships and Externships

Internships and externships are another great way for law students to be exposed to the practice of FL&P and are an easy way for law schools to help equip students for a career in FL&P. One opportunity for law students is to seek an internship in one of the already existing law clinics or centers that do this work. For example, the Harvard FLPC¹⁴⁵ and the UCLA Resnick Program for Food Law and Policy¹⁴⁶ hire summer interns. Law schools can encourage law students to seek internship opportunities at a non-profit that does FL&P work; for example, FC hired summer interns in 2013.¹⁴⁷ The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, which engages in direct and grassroots advocacy as well as public education around issues of sustainable food production, hires policy interns throughout the year.¹⁴⁸ Law schools can also encourage law students to seek internships at a federal or state agency. For example, I spent my 2L summer interning at the Iowa State Farm Services Agency of USDA, during which time I wrote a policy paper on existing crop insurance policies for fruit and vegetable producers and proposing ways to improve crop insurance for those producers. Finally, law students might consider seeking an externship in the legal division of a private business, such as Wal-Mart.¹⁴⁹

Law schools should be prepared to help law students think creatively about the places they could get an internship or externship; if the law student is able to secure funding to support an otherwise unpaid position or

144. See generally INST. FOR AGRIC. & TRADE POL'Y, PROMISES AND PERILS OF THE TTIP: NEGOTIATING A TRANSATLANTIC AGRICULTURAL MARKET (2013), available at http://www.iatp.org/files/2013_10_25_TTIP_KHK.pdf.

145. HARVARD FOOD LAW & POL'Y CLINIC, FOOD LAW AND POLICY CLINIC SUMMER 2014 INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/foodpolicyinitiative/2014/01/14/summer-2014-internship-opportunities-at-flpc-2/> (last visited May 11, 2014).

146. INST. FOR FOOD LAWS & REGULATIONS, FOOD LAW AND POLICY SUMMER POSITION, <http://iflr.foodlaw.org/2013/10/food-law-and-policy-summer-student.html> (last visited May 11, 2014).

147. FARM COMMONS FACEBOOK PAGE, SUMMER 2013 INTERNS WANTED!, <https://www.facebook.com/FarmCommons/posts/412550438843909> (last visited May 11, 2014).

148. NAT'L SUSTAINABLE AGRIC. COAL., JOBS, <http://sustainableagriculture.net/about-us/jobs/> (last visited May 11, 2014).

149. Lauren Bernadett, *Experiential Learning: Externships with Walmart's Legal Division*, LL.M. PROGRAM IN AGRIC. & FOOD L. BLOG (Feb. 6, 2014, 9:06 PM), <http://www.agfoodllm.com/2014/02/student-spring-externships-walmarts.html>.

can get credit for an internship or externship, the possibilities are almost endless.

D. Career Development Workshops

Law schools also have the ability to help equip law students for a career in FL&P by providing career development workshops that give students the skills they will need to embark on their careers that the students would not otherwise get through class work or internships. For example, a workshop on how to start a non-profit or a small law firm might be useful for a law student seeking to work in FL&P. Many of the workshops that teach project management skills, time management skills, and other skills important in legal practice will also help law students seeking a career in FL&P.

E. Further Study

There are a number of advanced degree programs that law schools can encourage students to pursue as a next step in their FL&P career. The University of Arkansas School of Law and the Vermont Law School both have LL.M. programs that students interested in FL&P might consider. The University of Arkansas School of Law has the only LL.M. program in Agricultural and Food Law.¹⁵⁰ Courses include: Introduction to the Law of Food and Agriculture; Food Law and Policy; Federal Nutrition Law and Policy; Federal Regulation of Food Safety; and International Agricultural Trade, among many others.¹⁵¹ Vermont Law School offers an LL.M. in Environmental Law, and given the new Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, there may be numerous opportunities to incorporate FL&P into the LL.M. course of study.¹⁵²

Law schools can also encourage their students to look abroad for LL.M. opportunities. For example, the University of Edinburgh School of Law offers an LL.M. in Global Environment and Climate Change Law,

150. THE LL.M. PROGRAM IN AGRIC. & FOOD LAW, <http://www.agfoodllm.com/> (last visited May 9, 2014).

151. Susan Schneider, *Updated LL.M. Curriculum*, LL.M. PROGRAM IN AGRIC. & FOOD L. BLOG (Sept. 22, 2013, 12:38 PM), <http://www.agfoodllm.com/2013/09/updated-llm-curriculum.html>.

152. VERMONT LAW SCHOOL, LL.M. IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW, [http://vermontlaw.edu/Academics/Degrees/Master_of_Laws_\(LLM\)/LLM_in_Environmental_Law.htm](http://vermontlaw.edu/Academics/Degrees/Master_of_Laws_(LLM)/LLM_in_Environmental_Law.htm) (last visited May 11, 2014).

which in part focuses on agricultural issues.¹⁵³ There may be other LL.M. programs, or other masters programs, that law students might decide will prepare them for a career in FL&P.

F. *Professional Associations*

There are a handful of professional associations that provide important networking, educational, and publication opportunities for law students interested in FL&P. For example, the American Agricultural Law Association (AALA) is a professional association that focuses on the legal needs of the agricultural community.¹⁵⁴ AALA members are practitioners, academics, government officials, and law students. Each fall, AALA hosts a conference that addresses current issues in food and agricultural law.¹⁵⁵ The AALA conference is a great opportunity for law students to network with established FL&P attorneys. The Food and Drug Law Institute (FDLI) is another professional association that law students should consider joining.¹⁵⁶ In addition to offering publication opportunities, FDLI hosts conferences and networking events, and offers discounts on various food law publications.¹⁵⁷

V. CONCLUSION

Law schools have an incredible opportunity to help launch their law students into a career in the exciting and developing area of FL&P. As discussed above, there are numerous opportunities for law students to have careers in FL&P with more opportunities developing each year. Many of the job opportunities mentioned above, however, do not offer the same level of compensation that private law firms do. For some students interested in FL&P, taking a job in the public sector may not be financially

153. UNIV. OF EDINBURGH SCHOOL OF LAW, LL.M. IN GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE LAW, http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/teaching/postgraduate/llm_msc/global_environment_and_climate_change_law (last visited May 11, 2014).

154. AM. AGRIC. LAW ASS'N, WELCOME TO AALA, <http://aglaw-assn.org/> (last visited May 11, 2014).

155. AM. AGRIC. LAW ASS'N, ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL LAW CONFERENCE - 2014 ALBUQUERQUE, NM, <http://aglaw-assn.org/annual-conference/> (last visited May 11, 2014).

156. THE FOOD & DRUG LAW INST., WHO WE ARE, <http://www.fdpi.org/> (last visited May 11, 2014).

157. THE FOOD & DRUG LAW INST., MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS, <http://www.fdpi.org/membership/membership-benefits> (last visited May 11, 2014); THE FOOD & DRUG LAW INST., YOUR INVITATION TO GET INVOLVED IN FDLI, <http://www.fdpi.org/docs/default-document-library/fdpi-gathering-invite-3v2.pdf?sfvrsn=2> (last visited May 11, 2014).

possible. Further, although jobs within this field are increasing in number, there are still relatively few jobs in FL&P. In these situations, students interested in FL&P should consider other ways to stay involved in the field, such as board service, pro bono, and volunteer work with food system nonprofits and clinics. By serving on the board of a food system nonprofit, an early-career attorney can establish and develop relationships and contribute meaningfully to the non-profit, all of which may start paving the way for a future career move into FL&P.

Many law schools are already equipped to give their students some of the skills they will need to succeed in a FL&P career. Law schools should consider a few questions before they get started incorporating FL&P courses, programs, and other skill-building experiences.

First, law schools need to assess both their current capacity as well as their aspirations to educate and equip students for careers in FL&P. Of the options discussed above, which ones fit the character and capacity of your individual law school? What resources already exist at the law school? What could your law school do now? Can any of the existing programs be tailored to include FL&P? What kinds of collaborations might be possible between the law school and other schools within the university (e.g., schools of public health) or other universities? What does your law school aspire to do? Does the law school have hopes of starting a dedicated FL&P clinic? Does the law school want to establish courses focused on FL&P? These questions will help law schools start to discern how they can best serve the law students that seek to have a career in FL&P.

Second, law schools should consider the role of social media and technology in their FL&P endeavors. Social media and technology have dramatically changed the way individuals and schools within the legal profession interact with one another. It is much easier to have guest FL&P speakers from all over the country (even the world) teach law students about their FL&P expertise. It is also much easier for law students to stay in touch with FL&P activities happening around the country and the world. Law schools that may not be able to add new FL&P courses to their curriculum or are unable to add a new clinic, for example, can provide their students with exposure to FL&P through guest speakers (either in person or over Skype), webinars, and by connecting law students with existing FL&P resources.

It is an exciting time to be studying and working in FL&P. The field is growing rapidly and more job opportunities will arise in the coming years that will demand employees well-versed in FL&P and equipped to make positive change in the food system. Law schools have the chance to be proactive to help prepare students for this field in a number of ways, whether through course work, practical experiences, or internships. This article is not meant to be an exhaustive list of career opportunities in FL&P

nor an exhaustive list of how law schools can help prepare students. It is meant to be a starting point in a discussion around how law schools can meet student demand for a new field of study, while at the same time ensuring law students are well-prepared to enter this dynamic field.

