Welcome to the 2008-09 Drake University Agricultural Law Center report for January 2008 to June 2009. I am pleased to share with you this update on a very productive year and a half and to highlight some of our plans for the rest of 2009.

This report reflects the Center’s wide range of activities in the area of food and agricultural law and rural policy. It showcases our students, conferences, classes, publications, and special research projects and highlights the outstanding work of the Center’s staff, the Drake law students associated with it, and some of our recent graduates. Special thanks go to my friend and colleague, Matt Russell, the state food policy project coordinator and assistant in the Center. The report details his many projects and activities, including taking the lead in compiling this report.

I hope you enjoy reading about what Drake Law School and the Agricultural Law Center are doing to advance the understanding and awareness of the role of law in shaping society’s relation to food, agriculture and rural society. I look forward to hearing from you if you have comments or questions or would like to learn more about how you can support the work of the Center.

Best wishes

Prof. Neil D. Hamilton, July 1, 2009

Director of the Agricultural Law Center and Dwight D. Opperman Distinguished Professor Law

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I. The Center’s Rural Development Initiatives

Drake offers first Wind Law Class
In spring 2008, the Law School became only the third law school in the nation to offer a class in legal issues relating to wind energy (joining the Universities of Texas and Oregon). Nine students (including one undergraduate) and 3 attorneys participated in the course. The course was offered again in spring 2009 and over thirty students enrolled! Students had the opportunity to learn from lawyers, engineers and other experts involved in developing Iowa’s wind industry, including speakers from the Iowa Energy Center, Mid American Energy, and John Deere Financial.

Lawyers Conference on Renewable Energy and Agriculture
On Thursday November 14, 2008, the Center, in cooperation with the Agricultural Law Section of the Iowa Bar Association sponsored the Wind Rights Legal Forum in the Clinic Courtroom. The forum, a 2.3 hour CLE, provided various perspectives on legal issues raised by the wind rights agreements used in Iowa. Forty-five lawyers attended and nine speakers addressed perspectives on legal issues raised by the wind rights agreements in use in Iowa.

Pork Research and the Value of Manure
During August and September 2008, 61 hog farmers took Drake's online survey that asked farmers about recent challenges and opportunities as well as future projections for their hog operations. The participants represented every region in the state -- ranging in age from 20 to 70 -- and were responsible for more than 30,000 sows and 1.17 million finishing hogs. The survey indicated a growing interest in manure as a nutrient source; however, the number of hog farmers with manure contracts is still relatively small, but growing. The survey found as the value of manure has risen in the past years, the opposition of neighbors to hog expansion has decreased.

An online tool takes hog farmers and landowners through a series of questions to consider when entering into a manure agreement. The online decision-making tool, two research papers, and the results of the survey can be found here. The research was supported by a Smithfield Swine Industry Enhancement Grant through the Iowa Attorney General's office. Ethan Epley a May 2009 graduate was the lead researcher on manure easements and contracts.

Sustainable Agricultural Land Tenure and Rural America
The Center is engaged in a variety of projects relating to the conservation of agricultural lands and the
promotion of opportunities in rural America. For example, for over 10 years the Center has cooperated with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to implement the Wetland Reserve Program. Drake funds several students who work as legal interns for the NRCS to help review property documents for WRP applicants. Over the last year Drake students, Ed Cox and Erin Light, helped the NRCS implement the new Emergency Wetland Reserve Program.

In September 2008, Drake University and Center finalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Iowa State University and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture to develop a jointly funded $250,000 two-year project to support a Center initiative on “Sustainable Agricultural Land Tenure.” The funding will help support a Center staff attorney and a series of student summer research stipends. The goals of the project are to assess and collect data and information on Iowa landownership patterns and land tenure practices (e.g., farm tenancy agreements) and on the impacts on sustainability and stewardship and to work with farmers and landowners, including new and absentee landowners in adopting sustainable land management practices. The project will inventory existing land related agreements and develop model terms incorporating sustainability standards for land agreements impacting stewardship across Iowa.

II. Student Academic Achievement

Certificate in Food and Agricultural Law
Drake is the only law school in the nation to offer its students the opportunity to earn a certification marking completion of a set of courses, internships and writing projects in the field of food and agricultural law. In 2008 four Drake Law graduates received the Certificate in Food and Agricultural Law. The 2008 students, and their current employment, are:

Whitney LeGrand Ivey - Adams & Ivey, PLLC in Sparta, NC
Dustin Miller - Director, Development and Marketing, The Harvest Initiative, Ft. Thompson, SD
Julia Vyskocil - policy director, Iowa Renewable Fuels Association
Jason Yates - Director of Operations and Strategy, The Harvest Initiative in Ft. Thompson, SD

In May 2009 another four Drake law students received their certifications in Food and Agricultural Law, including: Edward Cox, Ethan Epley, Emiliano Lerda, and Seth Schroeder.

Drake Journal of Agricultural Law
Drake is the only accredited law school in the nation where students publish a legal journal focusing solely on agricultural law issues. The journal features articles written by professors, lawyers and students. The journal analyzes new legislation, reviews case law and explores cutting-edge concepts. Drake publishes the annual symposium issue for the American Agricultural Law Association’s conference.

In March 2008, South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture Bill Evan ‘05 gave the keynote at the Journal’s annual banquet.
In March 2008, Fred Hubbell, chairman of the Iowa Power Fund gave the keynote talk at the Journal’s annual banquet. For information, please see the Drake Journal of Agricultural Law’s website by clicking here.

American Agricultural Law Association 2008 Meeting
The 2008 annual meeting of the American Agricultural Law Association in Minneapolis continued Drake’s historic connection with AALA. Prof. Hamilton is the only member of the association to have attended all 29 of the organization's meetings. In October, a Drake delegation of 21 students and staff were joined by a dozen Drake alumni members of the AALA and other alumni from the upper Midwest.

Summer Agricultural Law Institute
Each year, the Center organizes several summer Agricultural Law Institute courses taught by national agricultural law scholars.

In July 2008, Professor Hamilton taught “Rural Lands Rural Livelihoods” for 12 students. The course focused on the role of law in creating opportunities for rural communities and how natural resources can be used as the basis for rural economic development. The class is being repeated in July 2009 for the 2009 Summer Institute.

Also in July 2008, Michael Roberts, former director of the National Ag Law Center and recently of counsel with Venable, PC, taught a one-week seminar on “Corporate Responsibility in the Food and Agriculture Sector” for 12 students. Prof. Roberts has taken a position as Associate General Counsel, Government Relations & International Affairs for Roll International Corporation & Affiliates, a multi-national food distributor headquartered in Los Angeles. Prof. Roberts plans to return to Drake in October 2009 to offer a global version of his class.

Agricultural Law Visiting Scholars
Each year the Center hosts distinguished agricultural law scholars to teach Drake students and share their unique cultural perspectives on food and agricultural law. In 2008, the Center hosted two visiting scholars focusing on rural development.

In addition to Michael Roberts, Vanessa Fisher Gonzalez, a Ph.D. student at the Santa Ana School at the University of Pisa, studying International Human Rights and Sustainability, was in residence at Center from June 1 to August 1st. Her research focused on food safety law and regulation in the U.S. She is a land judge from Costa Rica and she may return to Drake for another study period in fall 2009.
Harkin Summer Service Learning Internships

One of the many opportunities the Center has developed using support provided by Congress through the National Agricultural Law Center is our summer Harkin Service Learning Internships. This program provides Drake Law students with the opportunity to spend a significant portion of their summer working for a public or non-profit organization in the field of food policy and agricultural law. The internships provide students with valuable insights and experience in policy work and benefit the sponsoring organizations by providing over 200 hours of legal assistance at no cost. Completion of the internships satisfies a requirement of the Agricultural Law Certification. The internships are named after U.S. Senator Tom Harkin, chair of the Agriculture Committee and long-time friend and supporter of Drake and the Center. The Center takes this opportunity to thank the sponsoring organizations and the many people who help supervise the work of the students.

In 2008 the following students completed internships with these sponsoring organizations:

- Jenna Maubach Lain - Beginning Farmer Center, Iowa State University
- Charles Isaacson - USDA Rural Development
- Matthew Kaufman - USDA Rural Development
- Ryan Holtgraves - Iowa Environmental Council
- Erin Light - USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Jacob Mason - Drake University Law School
- Reed Baessler - Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
- Kate Lyons - Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture
- Fritz Ebinger – Drake Agricultural Law Center
- Ed Cox - USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Seth Schroeder - Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

For summer 2009 the Center is pleased to support another outstanding crew of eight Harkin Summer Service Learning Interns. The 2009 interns and their sponsoring institutions are:

- Amanda Atherton, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
- Ross Baxter, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, ISU
- Dave Benson, Agricultural Law Center, Buy Fresh Buy Local initiative
- Jacob Butcher, U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, Washington DC
- Elizabeth Dooley, University of Foggia, rural development institute, Italy
- Keith Duffy, Agricultural Law Center, Sustainable Agricultural Land Tenure project
- Judd Jensen, Iowa Environmental Council
- Benjamin Kleinjan, South Dakota Department of Agriculture

III. Collaborations, Partnerships, and Resources

The Center is fortunate to have a strong set of relations, collaborations and partnerships with other institutions and organizations. Among the key partnerships are:
- Each spring and summer the Director teaches two seminars for the agricultural law graduate students at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, collaborating with the program leader, Prof. Susan Schneider.
- Each winter the Director teaches a one-credit class on “An Introduction to American Agricultural Law and Policy” as an invited professor at the University of Nantes, collaborating with Prof. Marine Friant-Perrot who heads the program.
- The Center has a long-standing partnership and collaboration with the National Center for Agricultural Law at the University of Arkansas under the able direction of Harrison Pittman, working on a variety of joint research and education initiatives. This partnership is supported with funding provided by Congress to the USDA Agricultural Research Service and the National Agricultural Library.
- For the last twenty-one years the director served on the Advisory Board of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University. He resigned in September 2008 to launch the new initiative Sustainable Agricultural Land Tenure in partnership with the Leopold Center. Until his resignation, he was board chair and worked closely with director Jerry DeWitt and associate director Rich Pirog. The Center will continue to work closely with the Leopold Center as the SALT initiative unfolds in 2009 and 2010.
- For the last 17 years the director has served on the board of directors of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and is now the chairman of the board working closely with President Mark Ackelson.
- For over 12 years the director has served on the board of the Seed Savers Exchange and now serves as the vice-chair working closely with chairman Amy Goldman.
- For over ten years the Director has served on the board of the National Gardening Association, headquartered in Burlington Vermont and is now the vice chair working with the executive director Michael Metallo.
- In 2009, Matt Russell completed his second term as the board chair of the Iowa Network for Community Agriculture. This statewide organization of farmers, educators, health professionals, students, and consumers focuses on building local food systems. In 2008, the Center co-sponsored the 13th Annual Local Food Conference in Cedar Rapids.

In 2008 the Center was honored to receive a two year $50,000 grant from the Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust to support our activities on food policy and rural economic development.

In 2008 the Center completed the Iowa Department of Justice grant to support research on legal issues and innovation in organizing the production and marketing of swine. The funds are part of the research initiative funded under the Smithfield Foods settlement.

Wellmark Blue Cross & Blue Shield joined Drake in providing the primary sponsorship for the 2008 Greater Des Moines Buy Fresh Buy Local Campaign to help consumers connect healthy eating with wellness. Gateway Market, Kitchen Collage, Des Moines Downtown Farmers Market, and Slow Food Des Moines provided additional support. Additional sponsors in 2009 include Campbell’s Nutrition and Splash.
IV. Food and Agriculture Policy

Over the last two years the Center Director has had an increasing number of opportunities to be involved in the development and discussion of national and state policies relating to food and agricultural law and policy. On a personal level he worked with the Obama for President campaign, serving on the national rural and agriculture policy committee. After the election in November 2008 he was honored to be included in the list of the “Sustainable Six” candidates promoted by the organization Food Democracy Now for consideration as secretary of agriculture. It was with great pleasure that he and the Center welcomed the news Iowa’s former Governor Thomas J. Vilsack was nominated and confirmed as Secretary of Agriculture. In May 2007 then former Governor Vilsack served as a visiting professor at Drake and he team-taught with Prof. Hamilton a two-credit course Rural Lands Rural Livelihoods. As the Secretary has developed his team to administer USDA Prof. Hamilton has had several opportunities to share insights and offer policy suggestions. We are very excited our friend Doug O’Brien who worked as a staff attorney at the Center for several years is now chief of staff for Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan. The Center staff is excited about the future opportunities to work with USDA to develop policies and programs to promote sustainable agriculture, rural development, and stronger local food systems. In March 2009, the Director worked with the Secretary’s office to organize a meeting of twenty garden policy leaders from around the nation to help USDA staff develop plans for the Secretary’s Peoples Garden Initiative.

Director’s Policy Talks: Food, Agriculture, and Public Health

As part of his work on food policy the Director is frequently asked to speak and make presentations around the country. The following are some of his talks over the last year.

“Food Democracy: The Role of Law in Shaping America’s Diet” Yale University Rudd Center on Obesity and Food Policy, New Haven, May 2008. A podcast of the discussion with Dr. Kelly Brownell, director of the Rudd Center is at: http://streaming.yale.edu/opa/podcasts/audio/schools/health_and_medicine/hamilton_052108.mp3

“Agriculture and Food Production 101,” Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia, June 2008. Presentation on the relation between agricultural policy and obesity, National Policy Forum on Legal Responses to Obesity. The PowerPoint can be found at: http://www.law.drake.edu/centers/agLaw/docs/AFP_101.pdf

“Sustainable Agricultural Land Tenure: Issues for Iowa.” Farm and Agricultural Land meeting of the Iowa Realtors Association, West Des Moines, June 2008. The PowerPoint can be found at http://www.law.drake.edu/centers/agLaw/docs/SALT_issuesFroIowa.pdf


“Community Owned Wind Development,” Malcom, Iowa, August 2008, public forum organized by Iowa Farmers Union.

Slow Food Nation, San Francisco, California, August 30, 2008, presentation on Drake’s Buy Fresh Buy Local initiative.

“Fifty Things Rural Lawyers Need to Know about the 2008 Farm Bill,” Kansas Bar Association Agricultural Law Conference, Manhattan, September 12, 2008.

Iowa Bar Association, Environmental Law section CLE, Des Moines, October 17, 2008, presentation on “Roping the Wind: Legal Issues in Wind Development.”

American Agricultural Law Association 29th annual meeting, Minneapolis, October 25’2008, presentation on community wind development.

Iowa Association of Counties annual conference, Coralville, November 19, 2008, presentation on role of counties in promoting rural development and sustainable food systems.


8th annual Iowa Organic Conference
Iowa State University, Ames, November 24, 2008, talk on the opportunities for farm-based energy production and community wind development.
February 21, 2009, Yale Law School, New Haven, annual Rebellious Lawyering conference, presentation on “Food democracy and local food systems.”


2009 Iowa Bar Association Annual meeting, June 24, 2009, Des Moines, Agricultural Law Track presentation on “Wind Development and Legal Issues for Landowners.”

V. Local Food Systems

Agricultural Law Center staff are involved in an array of state and national efforts relating to food policy and the development of stronger food systems. The following activities represent the leadership the Center provides on these issues.

Iowa Food Policy Council
Professor Hamilton and Matt Russell are participating in an effort to restart the Iowa Food Policy Council. Two gatherings of people in December and April worked on plans to re-launch the Iowa Food Policy Council that ended when Governor Tom Vilsack left office in January 2007.

Buy Fresh Buy Local
Drake University and the Agricultural Law Center (www.law.drake.edu/aglaw) continue to provide the major sponsorship through staffing the coordination, marketing, production, and publicity of the Greater Des Moines Buy Fresh Buy Local campaign. In 2008 Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield (www.wellmark.com) partnered with Drake to provide sponsorship for the campaign to help consumers connect healthy eating with wellness. In 2008 and now in 2009 Gateway Market (www.gatewaymarket.com) continues to sponsor by supporting farms especially with scholarships to make sure that the cost of participating would not prevent any qualifying farm from joining. The Kitchen Collage (www.mykitchencollage.com) provides aprons for resale
as their sponsorship. The Des Moines Downtown Farmers Market (www.desmoinesfarmersmarket.com) provides booth space at the Saturday morning markets. Slow Food Des Moines also provided support as a sponsoring organization. The chapters are coordinated nationally by FoodRoutes Network (www.foodroutes.org), a nonprofit organization based in Central Pennsylvania. FoodRoutes partners with community-based groups to organize BFBL campaigns at the state and local levels. Iowans have developed nine campaigns serving nearly two thirds of the state’s population. Participants in 2008 included 1556 “pledged” consumers, 63 farms, and 27 food businesses. Farms and consumers were both surveyed and 40,000 BFBL directories were distributed. The campaign used the Drake’s Marketing and Communication department to earn print, radio, and TV coverage throughout the summer market season. Twenty issues of our electronic newsletter were published in 2008.

The 2009 Buy Fresh Buy Local campaign is now underway. A new directory has been published and an array of fundraising and information activities have been planned. The Center’s work is being aided by undergraduate assistant Tom Burkhead. More information about Greater Des Moines Buy Fresh Buy Local including an archive of the newsletters can be found here.

Food and Fitness
Matt Russell serves the State of Iowa in a number of capacities related to the emerging efforts combining food and fitness. He is on the steering committee of the Iowa Nutrition Network Advisory Team, and on the Leadership Committee of the Iowans Fit for Life Partnership.

Institutional Purchasing
The Center, especially through the work of Matt Russell, continues to develop a focused effort to grow Iowa’s food economy. The Center works to help farmers and food businesses develop institutional markets as well as helping institutions source locally grown and produced foods. Click for copies of a case study of public institutions purchasing local foods and a farm and business tool for decision making in developing institutional markets.

Farm to School
The Center worked closely with Drake Dining services to feature local and Iowa foods at on campus conferences and meetings in 2008. Matt Russell also served on the Farm to ISU steering committee. Iowa State University Dining is going through a major transformation to create a program that connects farms and food businesses with ISU Dining. He also served as an informal advisor to a National Agri-Marketing Association team of students at AIB (American Institute of Business) who will compete in Atlanta in April 2009. Their product is a farm to school service connecting local farm products to schools.

Regional Food System Working Group
RFSWG is a quarterly gathering of small business owners; farmers; Iowa State University professors of business, agriculture, and many faces from a cross section of Iowa’s food interests gathered in September for a meeting of the Regional Food System Working Group.
engineering; representatives from community colleges and other Iowa universities; and representatives from several governmental agencies. In addition to the RFSWG, Matt Russell also participates in the Small Meat Processors Working Group, another group supported by the Value Chain Partnerships.

VI. International Food, Agriculture, and Rural Development

Visit of Cary Fowler

On October 15, 2008, Cary Fowler, director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, visited Drake. He was a guest lecturer in Food and the Law and he made a presentation to over 25 students and faculty, discussing the importance of genetic diversity to solving global challenges. Fowler was impressed by the interest of students, and the Center will explore opportunities for students to intern with him in Rome.

ABA World Justice Project

The World Justice Project of the American Bar Association contacted Prof. Hamilton about his article “Feeding the World’s Future: Agrarian Justice and the Rule of Law” published in the Drake Journal of Agricultural Law. He has met with the WJP staff in Washington DC on several occasions and is helping organize an agricultural law component for the World Justice Forum in Vienna in November 2009.

VII. Other Activities by Center Staff

Matt Russell is State Food Policy Project Coordinator at the Center where he is responsible for projects relating to improving the opportunities in Iowa’s food system and rural economy. In addition to work mentioned early in the report, he participated in the following activities.

Talks in 2008
American Culinary Federation Greater, Des Moines — January 21
Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Annual Conference, Marshalltown—January 25
Agri-tourism conference, Ames—March 15
Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture’s Marketing and Food Systems Initiative Workshop, Ames—March 11
ISU Extension “Selling to institutions” Indianola—April 1
CSA roundtable discussion, West Des Moines—October 15

Neil Hamilton and Cary Fowler serve on the board of Seed Savers Exchange. Fowler was in Des Moines speaking on a panel of the World Food Prize events.

Talks in 2009
North East Iowa Food and Farm Coalition group facilitation—January 20
Agritourism Conference, Honey Creek Resort—March 7
National Value Added Agriculture Conference, Moline, IL—June 3-4

Gatherings and meetings in 2008
- Practical Farmers of Iowa Annual Conference—Des Moines, January 11-12
- 13th Annual Local Foods Conference, Iowa Network for Community Agriculture—Cedar Rapids, IA, February 1-2
- Value Chain Partnerships conference—Ames, April 3
- Iowa Food Coop advisory committee meeting—Des Moines, April 4
- World Pork Expo—Des Moines, June 6
- Sustainable Agriculture Coalition Symposium—Farmington, MN, August 12-13
- Iowans Fit for Life planning retreat—Grinnell, September 25
- Iowa Hunger Summit—Des Moines, October 14
- ISU Beginning Farmer meeting—Ames, October 30
- Buy Fresh Buy Local statewide gathering—Marshalltown, December 1

Gatherings and meetings in 2009
- Local Food Policy Workshop, Cedar Falls—June 10
- Meeting with Sec. Vilsack, Cedar Rapids—June 10
- Agile Agriculture, Fayetteville, AR—June 29-July 1

In addition to his work at Drake, he and a partner operate Coyote Run Farm, a 110 acre farm in rural Lacona and market fresh produce, eggs and meat at farmers markets and other local outlets as well as raise and sell mules. In 2009 he finished his second term as the board chair for the Iowa Network for Community Agriculture.

VIII. 2008 Publications, Articles, Editorials, and Research Tools

Prof. Hamilton had several law review articles published in the last eighteen months, including:


The Center received significant news coverage in 2008 including, quotes in the New York Times, in a July 2008 story on Slow Food Nation; an interview with a Time magazine reporter about Slow Food Nation; quotations in the Des Moines Register for an August 2008 story about local wind development, and an television interview on Channel 5 about wind development, as well as extensive press coverage of the Buy Fresh Buy Local project.

**IX. Recent Graduates and Alumni**

The Center is proud of the students who participate in our work while at Drake. Here is news on some of our recent graduates and their new jobs:

Mark Reisinger, resigned as the Executive Director of USDA Iowa Rural Development and has a new position as CEO of the Agribusiness Association of Iowa.

Jason Yates and Dustin Miller, continue their pioneering work with the Harvest Initiative in South Dakota. The Harvest Initiative was organized in the spring of 2008 to create and facilitate economic activity on the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation by assisting tribal members, through training entrepreneurs, providing access to capital and enhanced financial literacy.

Emiliano Lerda, completed the first semester of the Agricultural Law LLM, Univ. of Arkansas.

From left, Jason Yates ’08, Dustin Miller ’08, Michelle Griswell, and Barry Griswell discuss the Harvest Initiative, Inc, a non-profit working on the Crow Creek Reservation in South Dakota headed by Yates and Miller and funded by the Griswolds.
Amber Brady, was promoted from General Council to Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for South Dakota, where she works with her classmate Bill Even, the secretary.

Trent Hilding, is practicing in Edmore, Michigan, where he spends a significant amount of time of wind energy issues.

Jesse Phelps completed his clerkship on the U.S. Court of International Trade in New York and has accepted a position with Faegre and Benson in the Des Moines office.

Patrick Dillon is in private practice in Sumner, Iowa.

**X. Preview of 2009 - 2010**

This coming year should be another exciting and busy year for the Center. Here are just some of the talks, and other activities the Director and staff have planned for 2009 – 2010.

American Community Gardening Association 30th meeting, Columbus, OH, Aug. 6, 2009


Georgetown Law School, Land use seminar on sustainable agriculture land tenure, Oct. 1, 2009

American Association of Law Schools, annual meeting, New Orleans, Jan. 8, 2010, session on food law and values.

Drake Forum on the New American Farmer – three day national conference in Washington DC, in cooperation with USDA Cooperative Extension and others, winter dates to be determined.

“The Land Remains” – a video documentary on the role of law in promoting land stewardship and conservation and on the changes in Iowa’s land ownership structure. Filming for the project was completed in May and editing is underway for a fall 2009 release.