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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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# ABOUT UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW

UCLA School of Law, founded in 1949, is the youngest major law school in the nation and has established a tradition of innovation in its approach to teaching, research, and scholarship. With a rigorous public interest curriculum and the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy, the school is a preeminent training ground for students committed to careers in public service.

# ABOUT THE FOOD LAW AND POLICY PROGRAM

The Food Law and Policy Program at UCLA Law comprises multiple components. Students can take introductory classes, such as a Modes of Legal Inquiry class on a Moral Food System, doctrinal classes, such as the Introduction to Food Law and Policy, and do clinical work in the Food Law and Policy Clinic. Students can also participate in Resnick Center programming, including roundtables, speakers, and conferences, and they have the opportunity to participate in the Student Food Law Society, which holds its own programming and networking events. In addition, the Resnick Center supports students interested in food law to participate in national events, such as the annual Food Law Student Leadership Summit. Students can also apply to be research assistants for specific projects with the Resnick Center.

# ABOUT THE RESNICK CENTER FOR FOOD LAW AND POLICY

The Resnick Center's mission is to provide cutting-edge legal research and scholarship in food law and policy. The Resnick Center publishes and contributes to a broad range of scholarship—treatises, books, book chapters, journals, white papers, and blogs—that builds food-law curriculum and stimulates discussion on important decisions about food issues affecting millions of people in local and global communities. The Resnick Center advances its research and scholarship by convening roundtables, conferences, and events to address important issues in food law and policy that affect the quality of life for humans and the planet, and by collaborating with experts in food-systems thinking. The Resnick Center attracts, trains, and supports tomorrow's food law and policy leaders, scholars, and practitioners through course offerings that generate student scholarship and research opportunities and through a student clinic that provides policy advocacy training.

# ABOUT THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INTEREST PROGRAMS

The Office of Public Interest Programs strives to enhance UCLA School of Law's commitment to public interest by offering an array of services to students and alumni. The Office's principal goal is to encourage students and alumni to embrace a career that incorporates an ongoing commitment to public service.

# INTRODUCTION

Food law encompasses the legal structures that regulate the market of food, including those involving production, processing, packaging, distributing, selling, and consuming. Many disparate areas of the law come together to comprise the network of food regulation, including food and drug law, environmental law, administrative law, public health law, and more. For this reason, lawyers may find they have taken a circuitous and attenuated path to food law, or that food law has unexpectedly become a part of their work. Moreover, the study and practice of food law provide an avenue into these other areas of law.

A food law and policy career, especially for attorneys interested in working in the public interest sector, can take many shapes. Food policy work often intersects with other legal subject matters, such as housing, health care, education, and family law. Careers in Public Interest Food Law and Policy has been created to help law students and graduates understand the varied directions a public interest food law career can go, and how to embark upon such a career path.

This guide is divided into eight parts. Part I defines "public interest food law and policy" and Part II suggests factors students seeking to enter this area to consider. Part III consists of alumni narratives describing their experiences in public interest food law. Part IV examines potential points of entry into public interest food law and policy, and Part V recommends steps that law students can take to prepare for a career in public interest food law. Section VI contains narratives from students and recent graduates discussing their public interest food law or policy courses and internships. Parts VII and VIII offer interview tips and job search resources, respectively.

# I. PUBLIC INTEREST FOOD LAW AND POLICY PRACTICE

Part I discusses typical meanings of "public interest" and "food law and policy" to provide a picture of what a career in this sector may entail.

### **DEFINING "FOOD LAW AND POLICY"**

In his Food Law casebook, Michael T. Roberts, the Executive Director of the Resnick Center for Food Law and Policy at UCLA Law, and his co-authors discuss some of the principles of food law, which provide a helpful breakdown of this complex field and illustrate the directions a food law career may take. Jacob E. Gersen, et al., Food Law (Wolters Kluwer, 2019). First are health and safety. The authors write, "[h]ealth and safety are perhaps the most important and pervasive aspirations of food law." Id. at 3. This category includes keeping the food supply safe from contamination, ensuring the safe production of food, addressing hunger and/or obesity and obesity-related disease, and regulating nutrition. Legal jobs may include foodborne illness-related litigation, compliance work, local, state, or federal government positions, and public health work.

Next are transparency and choice. The casebook states: "Food is one of the oldest regulated markets. As such, the conflict over how tightly the government should constrain producer and consumer choice in food markets is chronic and pervasive." *Id.* at 4. This category involves aspects of food production, marketing, and advertising, as well as issues of transparency and values. Similarly to health and safety, jobs may include truth in advertising litigation, marketing work, public health work, and government positions.

The last principles are food harms, food wrongs, and food rights, and this grouping involves issues of corrective and social justice. The authors also discuss "food exceptionalism" as a principle of food law, but because this category does not itself give rise to legal jobs (although it may be an aspect of food law positions), it is not discussed here. See *id.* at 4. Food harms and food rights involve issues of rights and remedies, and entail different sources of law. Jobs may involve nongovernmental organization work, government positions, and nonprofit careers.

The previous paragraphs discussed what constitutes food law. This guide, however, also encompasses food policy. Food policy, or questions of how best to grow, market, sell, and consume food, is intertwined and inextricable with questions of food law and food law practice. This is especially the case in public interest food law practice. We discuss the meaning of "public interest" next.

### **DEFINING "PUBLIC INTEREST"**

Lawyering in the public interest is a broad and fluid category. This guide uses the term "public interest" to mean values-driven lawyering done for social impact on behalf of disenfranchised or marginalized communities. See Scott Cummings & Alan Chen, Public Interest Lawyering: A Contemporary Perspective (2012).

There are several arenas where a practitioner may engage in public interest food lawyering, including nonprofit, government, and private—or for-profit—public interest practice. Nonprofit

food lawyering may involve food justice or nutrition advocacy, government food lawyering may include zoning work and distribution issues, and private public interest food lawyering may engage a lawyer in public health litigation.

Just as the category of public interest law is fluid, so can be a public interest food law career. An interest in food justice may allow an attorney to move from nonprofit to government work, or vice versa.

### FACTORS LAW STUDENTS SHOULD CONSIDER

Public interest food law careers are available for students and graduates interested in litigation, transactional work, and policy and legislative advocacy. Each of these practice types may focus on any number of specific substantive areas including those listed below.

### LEGAL SPECIALIZATIONS WITH A FOOD LAW FOCUS

Public interest food law and policy consists of a wide variety of sub-areas, stretching across the legal field from environmental justice litigation to financial transactions to labor policy advocacy. The below list highlights many of the specializations of public interest food law. It also provides examples of legal and policy issues arising in each of these different areas.

## o Agriculture

Example: Maine farmers overcome challenges to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act. <a href="https://bangordailynews.com/2019/10/17/news/state/maine-farmers-overcome-challenges-to-comply-with-new-federal-food-safety-regulations/">https://bangordailynews.com/2019/10/17/news/state/maine-farmers-overcome-challenges-to-comply-with-new-federal-food-safety-regulations/</a>

### o Animal Rights

Example: Animal Legal Defense Fund utilizes legal and political strategies to improve the treatment of animals in the food system. <a href="https://aldf.org/focus area/farmed-animals/">https://aldf.org/focus area/farmed-animals/</a>

### o Biotechnology

Example: The EU Parliament has in recent years adopted around 40 resolutions against further approvals for the import of genetically engineered plants due to environmental and health concerns. <a href="https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/opinion/the-eu-dilemma-with-the-gmo-industry-and-independent-risk-research/">https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/opinion/the-eu-dilemma-with-the-gmo-industry-and-independent-risk-research/</a>

### o Cannabis

Example: Although consumer demand is increasing for CBD-infused food and drink, producers must comply with complex legal and regulatory requirements. <a href="https://www.natlawreview.com/article/cbd-food-and-drink-products-eu-newest-hot-commodity-or-regulatory-headache">https://www.natlawreview.com/article/cbd-food-and-drink-products-eu-newest-hot-commodity-or-regulatory-headache</a>

### o Community Economic Development

Example: Legislatures brainstorm how to solve the problem of grocery stores closing in rural communities. <a href="https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/researchandanalysis/blogs/stateline/2019/10/02/as-rural-groceries-fade-away-lawmakers-wonder-whether-to-act">https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/researchandanalysis/blogs/stateline/2019/10/02/as-rural-groceries-fade-away-lawmakers-wonder-whether-to-act</a>

### o Cottage Food Industries

Example: Texas law expands foods that can be prepared in home kitchens and sold at farmers' markets. <a href="https://www.dallasnews.com/food/2019/09/03/new-changes-to-the-texas-cottage-food-law-mean-more-options-at-farmers-markets-and-online/">https://www.dallasnews.com/food/2019/09/03/new-changes-to-the-texas-cottage-food-law-mean-more-options-at-farmers-markets-and-online/</a>

### o Disaster Relief

Example: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Disaster Relief Program supplies food and other relief aid to communities impacted by disasters like COVID-19. https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/usda-foods-disaster-assistance

#### Economic Justice

Example: Sales tax on groceries in Connecticut increased by one percent. <a href="https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/Governor-Calls-for-Review-of-Tax-on-Groceries-Meals-560567801.html">https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/Governor-Calls-for-Review-of-Tax-on-Groceries-Meals-560567801.html</a>

### Access to Education

Example: In July 2019, the Trump Administration proposed changes to food stamps qualification which would reduce eligibility for low-income families in high cost-of-living states. <a href="https://www.calhealthreport.org/2019/09/18/kids-could-lose-food-stamps-school-meals-under-proposed-federal-change/">https://www.calhealthreport.org/2019/09/18/kids-could-lose-food-stamps-school-meals-under-proposed-federal-change/</a>

### Environmental Justice

Example 1: Pesticide exposure disproportionately impacts many low-income communities of color including those who work as farm laborers and those who live in routinely fumigated public housing. https://www.pesticidereform.org/environmental-justice/

Example 2: Food and Water Watch sued Iowa for allowing agricultural run off to pollute water with nitrates from fertilizer. <a href="https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/news/suing-iowa-for-choosing-big-ag-over-clean-water">https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/news/suing-iowa-for-choosing-big-ag-over-clean-water</a>

### Finance

Example: For FY 2020, the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided \$10 million in grants to increase the availability of local foods in schools. <a href="https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/farm-to-school-grant-applications-released/">https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/farm-to-school-grant-applications-released/</a>

### o Food Justice

Example: Local Food Hub developed a drive-through farmers' market to continue its dual mission of increasing community access to local food and supporting farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic. <a href="https://www.cvilletomorrow.org/articles/groups-work-to-support-local-farms-and-access-to-food-during-covid-19">https://www.cvilletomorrow.org/articles/groups-work-to-support-local-farms-and-access-to-food-during-covid-19</a>

### Food Labeling

Example: The FDA issued guidance relaxing nutrition labeling requirements to allow restaurants and food manufacturers flexibility to sell packaged, unprepared foods during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<a href="https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/temporary-policy-regarding-nutrition-labeling-certain-packaged-food-during-covid-19-public-health">https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/temporary-policy-regarding-nutrition-labeling-certain-packaged-food-during-covid-19-public-health</a>

### Food Marketing and Advertising

Example: McDonald's advertisement was "pulled" in the U.K. for allegedly exploiting bereaved children. https://money.cnn.com/2017/05/17/news/mcdonalds-advertisement-dead-father/

### Food Safety

Example: In Fall 2019, a food safety law firm filed a lawsuit following a listeria outbreak in chicken. <a href="https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/pritzker-hageman-food-safety-law-firm-files-first-listeria-lawsuit-in-cooked-chicken-recall-300933405.html">https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/pritzker-hageman-food-safety-law-firm-files-first-listeria-lawsuit-in-cooked-chicken-recall-300933405.html</a>

### o Food Security

Example: In Fall 2019, the Pan African Parliament Committee on Agriculture drafted a model law on food security and nutrition. <a href="https://www.pmldaily.com/news/2019/10/african-parliament-proposes-model-law-on-food-security.html">https://www.pmldaily.com/news/2019/10/african-parliament-proposes-model-law-on-food-security.html</a>

### o Food Systems

Example: International honey fraud reduces U.S. honey producers' ability to compete. <a href="https://law.ucla.edu/centers/social-policy/resnick-center-for-food-law-and-policy/publications/honey-fraud-white-paper/">https://law.ucla.edu/centers/social-policy/resnick-center-for-food-law-and-policy/publications/honey-fraud-white-paper/</a>

### Food Waste

Example: Maine passed a law in June 2019 to have schools send some of their unconsumed food to shelters and food pantries to prevent food waste. <a href="https://www.pressherald.com/2019/09/30/new-law-aims-to-reduce-food-waste-in-maine-schools/">https://www.pressherald.com/2019/09/30/new-law-aims-to-reduce-food-waste-in-maine-schools/</a>

## o Indigenous and Cultural Foods

Example: Six U.S. Senators proposed legislation to protect Native traditional seeds from fraud, environmental, infrastructural, and legal threats. <a href="https://www.commondreams.org/views/2019/10/13/new-bill-could-help-protect-sacred-seeds-indigenous-people">https://www.commondreams.org/views/2019/10/13/new-bill-could-help-protect-sacred-seeds-indigenous-people</a>

### International

Example: United Nation's Global Compact Zero Hunger Challenge seeks to develop sustainable food systems, reduce rural poverty, limit food waste, increase access to adequate and healthy food, and end malnutrition. <a href="https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/our-work/environment/food-agriculture">https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/our-work/environment/food-agriculture</a>

### Labor

Example: Farmworker women are especially at risk for workplace sexual harassment. <a href="https://cagj.org/food-justice/food-justice-resources/farmworker-sexual-violence-facts/">https://cagj.org/food-justice/food-justice-resources/farmworker-sexual-violence-facts/</a>

### Land Use/Conservation

Example: Retired farmland could be reclaimed as wildlife habitat in California's San Joaquin Desert. <a href="https://news.ucsc.edu/2019/01/san-joaquin-desert.html">https://news.ucsc.edu/2019/01/san-joaquin-desert.html</a>

### Nutrition and Diet-Related Disease

Example: New York law requires two employees of all restaurants to have regular food allergen training. <a href="https://abc7ny.com/food/new-law-in-nassau-county-to-help-protect-those-with-food-allergies/5586383/">https://abc7ny.com/food/new-law-in-nassau-county-to-help-protect-those-with-food-allergies/5586383/</a>

### o Public Health

Example: The lack of comprehensive nutrition education for physicians represents a missed opportunity for doctors to promote good health, illness prevention, and treatment of chronic diseases. <a href="https://www.chlpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Doctoring-Our-Diet\_-September-2019-V2.pdf">https://www.chlpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Doctoring-Our-Diet\_-September-2019-V2.pdf</a>

# Street Vending and Food Trucks

Example: On September 17, 2018, Governor Jerry Brown signed the Safe Sidewalk Vending Act, decriminalizing sidewalk food vending in California. <a href="https://dcba.lacounty.gov/sidewalkvending/">https://dcba.lacounty.gov/sidewalkvending/</a>

### Technology

Example: A Portland-based company has developed an online food-sharing site where users can buy and sell prepared food and produce from people in their communities. <a href="https://www.seattlepi.com/lifestyle/food/article/Social-enterprise-launches-online-food-sharing-14467587.php">https://www.seattlepi.com/lifestyle/food/article/Social-enterprise-launches-online-food-sharing-14467587.php</a>

### o Trade

Example: China excluded United States agricultural products from trade tariffs in September 2019 to ease tension ahead of trade talks. <a href="https://www.cnbc.com/2019/09/13/china-adds-us-agricultural-products-to-tariff-exemptions-ahead-of-trade-talks.html">https://www.cnbc.com/2019/09/13/china-adds-us-agricultural-products-to-tariff-exemptions-ahead-of-trade-talks.html</a>

### Transactional

Example: Non-profit food companies rely on in-house, pro bono, or public interest lawyers to assist the organization with transactional matters involving corporate, real estate, tax, and other law. [URL?]

### Urban Agriculture

Example: Rooftop hydroponic greenhouses in New York City are more water efficient than traditional agricultural techniques. <a href="https://weather.com/forecast-change/news/2019-10-07-urban-farming-hydroponics-help-feed-world-saving-water">https://weather.com/forecast-change/news/2019-10-07-urban-farming-hydroponics-help-feed-world-saving-water</a>

### **SALARY AND BENEFITS**

The salary and benefits available to a public interest food law attorney can range widely because of the varied nature of the hiring entities, including public interest law firms, government institutions, nonprofit organizations, and more. Students pursuing post-graduate employment with public interest entities should expect to receive a salary package that includes benefits.

### LOAN REPAYMENT

It is important to consider whether one's work will be eligible for loan repayment assistance programs, such as federal programs and the UCLA School of Law Loan Repayment Assistance Program. In the past, a [private?] firm's eligibility as a public interest employer has been made on a case-by-case basis for the UCLA School of Law Loan Repayment Assistance Program. A student interested in pursuing a post-graduate position should discuss this matter with their career counselor and the UCLA School of Law's Financial Aid Office to determine whether a hiring entity is likely to be eligible, with the understanding that no final decision can be made until the committee reviews their UCLA School of Law Loan Repayment Assistance Program application. For more information on the **UCLA** School Law Loan Repayment Assistance Program, visit https://law.ucla.edu/alumni/alumni-services/loan-repayment-assistance-program/.

# II. ALUMNI NARRATIVES

Attorneys enter public interest food law practice from a variety of avenues. Part II features short essays from distinguished UCLA School of Law alumni with public interest food law careers.

These narratives exemplify how individuals can take very different paths into food law and pursue very different types of public interest work. Each of these lawyers have found fulfillment in their careers and share a clear commitment to zealously advocating for their clients.

### **BRIAN FINK '17**

## Food and Beverage Attorney, Danow, McMullan & Panoff, P.C., New York, NY

My first over-the-counter job was as a fry boy at a local fish-and-chips shop in the suburbs of Seattle. Whether by accident or fortune, my subsequent jobs would also find me near food. After high school, I delivered pizza to make rent. And while taking classes at the University of Washington during the day, I spent my nights working in a kitchen at a grocery store deli. After graduation, I even tried my hand at organic farming and launching my own catering company.

The kitchen called me back, though. In the years that I was a dishwasher, prep cook, and cook, I had been a union steward and sat across from my employer during our collective bargaining process, acting as a liaison between my co-workers and the union. I was promoted to manager where my passion for building an equitable and inspiring workplace found a new vehicle in coordinating with management, encouraging worker creativity, and providing reliable and stable department infrastructure.

When I decided to attend law school, these experiences greatly motivated me. Three areas of law called to me: immigration law, employment law, and business law. Each of these were tied directly to my experiences of working in kitchens, whether as a dishwasher in a kitchen team made up of people from all over the world, or as a manager who worked closely with local producers and vendors to build the most sustainable inventory around.

When I arrived at UCLA, I focused on business and employment law, specializing in Business Law and Policy. I volunteered at Bet Tzedek, where I helped workers fight for back-pay owed to them. I struggled to find opportunities in employment law.

I discovered food law by accident. The Resnick Center for Food Law and Policy had just launched a pilot program that sought to connect local low-income farmers and food entrepreneurs to pro bono lawyers. I answered a call for student volunteers to help with intake for this program. I was immediately hooked. I found that I could combine my various interests and experience into this unified practice. That summer, I worked as a fellow for the Resnick Center, during which I had the opportunity to deepen my interests in business law and the food system.

When I was a 3L, I was president of the Food Law Society (FLS). Early that year, I went to Des Moines, Iowa, to attend the Food Law Student Leadership Summit. This is an annual weekend conference that brings together law students from across the country to learn more about food law and policy. I was energized when I returned. We in the FLS team re-launched the Community Supported Agriculture program that brought locally-grown produce to campus, sponsored speaking events, and partnered with Los Angeles attorneys to design our own pro bono transactional projects. For example, we helped a local coffee company form a workers' cooperative and researched property law as part of a model lease for California's then-new urban-agriculture incentive program.

After graduation, I moved to Connecticut to be the inaugural Farm and Food Legal Fellow at Yale Law School. I discovered this position from a food law listserv. My work there consisted of launching the Legal Food Hub, a statewide program similar to the one Resnick Center's pilot program. I also worked in the Community and Economic Development legal clinic, where I helped provide legal services to local farm and food businesses and organizations. Finally, I had the opportunity to publish an academic legal article, which was published in the *Journal for Food Law and Policy*.

The chance to work as a clinical fellow at the Food Law and Policy Clinic at Harvard Law School arrived as my fellowship at Yale was ending. The work there is much more oriented around policy rather than direct legal services. For example, one of my responsibilities was to provide legal and technical assistance to organizations across the country interested in reducing sugar consumption in their communities. The work at the clinic also tends to be less localized. For instance, I supervised a project that examined how foreign laws interact with food donations in various countries. That said, the Clinic's work spans all levels of government. I don't yet know where my food law journey will take me, but I have learned what I enjoy and do not enjoy in this field. My experiences have allowed me to focus my career on those practices more aligned with what I enjoy.

# JONATHAN JAGER '17

# Staff Attorney, Housing and Communities Workgroup, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

Prior to law school, I worked for a social services nonprofit in Madison, Wisconsin where I was involved in a number of initiatives and collaborations, including programs to address food insecurity. When I came to law school, I was interested in working on nonprofit law issues. I interned with the California Attorney General Office's Charitable Trusts Section, which supervises charities in California. I also worked on corporate governance issues in-house at a charter school system. My first opportunity to work directly on food law-related issues was as a member of the first Food Law & Policy Clinic at UCLA. In the clinic, I helped a local food recovery nonprofit establish social enterprise programs to supplement their revenue.

I am currently a Staff Attorney in the Housing and Communities Workgroup at the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, where my practice is a mix of housing and community economic development work. I started as the UCLA Community Economic Development (CED) Fellow after graduation. The CED part of my practice primarily consists of representing nonprofit organizations with transactional legal work. My days often consist of a mix of legal research and drafting. In the afternoons and evenings, I meet with community groups and clients' boards of directors to discuss their situations and provide legal advice.

My food law-related work is very diverse. One client is an established community organization that is looking to start a farmers' market. I am helping them navigate the red tape and paperwork necessary to contract with vendors and limit their liability. Another client that works on food access and urban agriculture issues needed help understanding the IRS rules around lobbying to protect their 501(c)(3) status. I have also done research into changes to California's food sharing laws to help clients understand the laws' impact on their work. I have several clients that are community land trusts seeking to ensure local land can be dedicated to community gardens and urban agriculture in perpetuity. I often partner with other legal services organizations, pro bono private counsel, and local organizations, such as the LA Food Policy Council, to coordinate our work and assist on projects.

Working in community economic development has given me the flexibility to work on food law issues alongside my other work, and I hope to continue doing so for the foreseeable future. My position has shown me how interconnected food can be with other areas of law, especially housing and land use. I recommend a position like mine to anyone who wants to work on a broad range of issues and work directly with and on behalf of communities.

### BETH KENT '18

## Policy and Legal Fellow, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, Los Angeles, CA

My interest in food law grew out of my background in environmental studies and my commitment to social justice. As a Society and Environment major at the University of California, Berkeley, I learned about the environmental impacts of agriculture and became interested in sustainable food production methods and climate-friendly diets. Urban gardens and farmers' markets have great potential to reduce the environmental impacts of food production, while increasing access to healthy, fresh foods, especially in neighborhoods with limited access to traditional grocery stores. These interests served as the basis for my Honors Thesis: "Addressing Obesity, Food Insecurity, and Overfishing with School Aquaponics Systems in the Bay Area."

Throughout law school, I continued to look for opportunities to learn more about and work on these issues. I took many environmental and food law classes, including the Environmental Law Clinic and the Food Law and Policy Clinic. I continued my Food Law Clinic projects as an Advanced Clinic Student and completed an independent study with Professor Allison Korn. I was also President of the Environmental Law Society, an Editor for the Journal of Environmental Law and Policy, and a member of the Food Law Society. During law school, I interned at the California Attorney General's Office in the Land Law Section, Earthjustice, and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Getting involved in activities related to my food and environmental law helped me gain experience and develop connections in these fields, which helped me find job opportunities.

While interning at the NRDC, I worked on a project for the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust. I learned about the organization's mission to increase access to green space by building parks and community gardens in low-income communities and communities of color, and I had the opportunity to get to know some of the wonderful staff members. Several months later, I was excited to see they were looking to host a UCLA Fellow through the UC President's Public Interest Fellowship. After meeting with the Executive Director, she agreed to host me, and I applied through the for the UC President's Fellowship.

Working at a local, community-based nonprofit has been a great experience. Our team is small, so I was given the opportunity to take on leadership roles shortly after starting. I research, review and comment on draft legislation and agency guidelines, prepare comment letters, meet with government, nonprofit, and community partners, collaborate with community members, and develop and implement policy campaigns. A large portion of our job focuses on increasing access to green space in Los Angeles County and advocating for park equity. We also support community and school gardens, including developing policies to increase school garden programs and facilitate shared use on school campuses.

If you're having a hard time finding your "dream job," look for jobs where you can either learn about the issues on which you ultimately want to work or where you can learn broadly-applicable skills. Try to find experience that will be transferable and will allow you to add value to any organization you join. And, don't be afraid to apply for jobs with small organizations.

For now, I'm planning to continue working on environmental policy and focusing on environmental justice and land use issues (green space access, sustainable food production, and joint development of parks and affordable housing).

# III. POINTS OF ENTRY INTO PUBLIC INTEREST FOOD LAW & POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

Part III contains a non-exhaustive list of the diverse methods through which law students can break into public interest food law and policy careers. Please contact the Resnick Center, Office of Career Services, or the Office of Public Interest Programs for a personalized discussion regarding potential opportunities.

### SAMPLE PUBLIC INTEREST FOOD LAW JOB PLACEMENTS

The variety of sub-areas within public interest food law and policy and the decentralized nature of the specialty means that there is a plethora of organizations that engage entirely or in part in public interest food law or policy work. The below list represents only a very small sample of potential employers.

### PRIVATE PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FIRMS

- o Best, Best & Krieger: <a href="https://www.bbklaw.com/">https://www.bbklaw.com/</a>
- o Shute Mihaly & Weinberger: https://www.smwlaw.com/
- o The Food Law Firm: <a href="https://www.foodlawfirm.com/">https://www.foodlawfirm.com/</a>

### **GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

- o California Department of Food and Agriculture: <a href="https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/">https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/</a>
- o California Department of Justice: <a href="https://oag.ca.gov/home">https://oag.ca.gov/home</a>
- o California Environmental Protection Agency: https://calepa.ca.gov/
- o Food and Drug Administration: <a href="https://www.fda.gov/">https://www.fda.gov/</a>
- o Los Angeles City Attorney's Office: <a href="https://www.lacity.org/government/popular-information/elected-officials/city-attorney">https://www.lacity.org/government/popular-information/elected-officials/city-attorney</a>
- o U.S. Department of Agriculture: <a href="https://www.usda.gov/">https://www.usda.gov/</a>
- O U.S. Department of Justice, Environmental and Natural Resources Division: https://www.justice.gov/enrd
- o U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: https://www.epa.gov/

### NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- o California Food Policy Advocates: https://cfpa.net/
- o California Rural Legal Assistance: <a href="https://www.crla.org/">https://www.crla.org/</a>
- o Conservation Law Foundation: <a href="https://www.clf.org/">https://www.clf.org/</a>
- o Los Angeles Food Policy Council: <a href="https://www.goodfoodla.org/">https://www.goodfoodla.org/</a>
- o Natural Resources Defense Council: <a href="https://www.nrdc.org/">https://www.nrdc.org/</a>

## INTERNATIONAL

- Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR): https://www.cgiar.org/
- o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: <a href="http://www.fao.org/home/en/">http://www.fao.org/home/en/</a>

- Heifer International: <a href="https://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/animals/index.html?msource=KIK1K19BS0001&gclid=CjwKCAjwp-X0BRAFEiwAheRuiyxudEB6G7VBAvEQ62MXTmcf5njyq-nWE1ajUig6AyJPtm-WgDyqhoCIHkQAvD\_BwE">https://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/animals/index.html?msource=KIK1K19BS0001&gclid=CjwKCAjwp-X0BRAFEiwAheRuiyxudEB6G7VBAvEQ62MXTmcf5njyq-nWE1ajUig6AyJPtm-WgDyqhoCIHkQAvD\_BwE</a>
- o International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI): https://www.ifpri.org/
- o World Food Programme: <a href="https://www.wfp.org/">https://www.wfp.org/</a>
- o World Organisation for Animal Health: <a href="https://www.oie.int/">https://www.oie.int/</a>

### **ON-CAMPUS RECRUITMENT**

Many private public interest firms, governmental and non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") attend campus recruitment programs events, including fall and spring on-campus interviews ("OCI") and public interest fairs. Because attendance varies from year to year, you should be mindful of reviewing the list of participating entities.

Past public interest food law-related organizations that have participated in on-campus recruitment in the past include:

- o Animal Legal Defense Fund (NGO): https://aldf.org/
- o Best, Best & Krieger, L.L.P. (Firm): https://www.bbklaw.com/
- o California Agricultural Labor Relations Board (Government): https://www.alrb.ca.gov/
- o California Coastal Commission (Government): https://www.coastal.ca.gov/
- o California Rural Legal Assistance (NGO): <a href="https://www.crla.org/">https://www.crla.org/</a>
- o Los Angeles Waterkeeper (NGO): <a href="https://lawaterkeeper.org/">https://lawaterkeeper.org/</a>
- o National Resource Defense Council (NGO): <a href="https://www.nrdc.org/">https://www.nrdc.org/</a>
- o Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, L.L.P. (Firm): https://www.smwlaw.com/
- o Surfrider Foundation (NGO): https://www.surfrider.org/
- U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division (Government): https://www.justice.gov/enrd

### **FELLOWSHIPS**

Post-graduate public interest fellowships are an important tool for entering public interest food law practice because they are short-term employment and training programs that are well-regarded by the public interest community. Fellowships provide fellows funding, in addition to work experience and training.

Fellowship applications may be quite extensive. The Resnick Center and the Office of Public Interest can assist with preparation, and any interested student is encouraged to contact these offices.

Fellowships that may involve food law practice include the following. Moreover, any public interest fellowship will provide valuable experience that may translate to food law practice in later years.

O Altshuler Berzon LLP/National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) Fellowship: This is a one-year fellowship focused on environmental law based out of San Francisco, CA. A major portion of the fellow's time is spent working on cases brought jointly by NRDC and Altshuler Berzon enforcing federal and state environmental statutes. Learn more at http://altshulerberzon.com/nrdc-fellowship/.

- Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, Vermont Law School, Food and Agriculture LLM Fellowship: This is a two-year fellowship, and includes a tuition waiver and a stipend.
   Learn more at <a href="https://www.vermontlaw.edu/academics/centers-and-programs/center-for-agriculture-and-food-systems/people/current-openings">https://www.vermontlaw.edu/academics/centers-and-programs/center-for-agriculture-and-food-systems/people/current-openings</a>.
- Equal Justice Works Fellowship: Equal Justice Works provides more than fifty two-year fellowships annually to recent law school graduates who undertake various public interest projects at a sponsoring nonprofit host organization. Equal Justice Work fellowships are only awarded for domestic work. Learn more at <a href="https://www.equaljusticeworks.org/become-a-fellow/">https://www.equaljusticeworks.org/become-a-fellow/</a>.
- O Harvard Law School Food and Policy Clinic, Clinical Fellow: The Clinical Fellow will work independently and with the Director, staff, and students on a broad range of international, federal, state, and local food policy projects. Learn more at <a href="https://www.chlpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/FLPC\_Clinical\_Fellow\_Job-Posting\_FINAL.pdf">https://www.chlpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/FLPC\_Clinical\_Fellow\_Job-Posting\_FINAL.pdf</a>.
- o Murphy Anderson PLLC George R. Murphy Public Interest Fellowship: Murphy Anderson is a D.C.-based law firm representing workers and unions. They practice labor, employment, whistleblower and First Amendment law. This is a one-year fellowship based out of Washington, D.C. Learn more at <a href="http://www.murphypllc.com/employment/">http://www.murphypllc.com/employment/</a>.
- o **Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger Fellowship**: Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP is a law firm specializing in government, land use, renewable energy, and environmental law. This is a three-year fellowship based out of San Francisco, CA. Learn more at <a href="http://www.smwlaw.com/hiring/fellowships">http://www.smwlaw.com/hiring/fellowships</a>.
- o **Skadden Fellowship**: The Skadden Fellowship is a two-year fellowship with twenty-eight fellowships each year. Almost every year, at least one UCLA student has been awarded the fellowship. Skadden fellowships are only awarded for domestic work. Learn more at <a href="https://www.skaddenfellowships.org/">https://www.skaddenfellowships.org/</a>.

### DIRECT APPLICATION

If an organization does not participate in on-campus interview programs, students may still apply for their opportunities. Most entities will have a "Careers" or "Employment Opportunities" page on their website. If the website is silent on opportunities for law students, students should consider directly inquiring with someone at the organization.

Contacting students and alumni who have worked with your target organizations in the past may be useful in obtaining information regarding application procedures and preferences. The Office of Career Services, the Office of Public Interest Programs, and the Resnick Center may be able to assist in connecting students to students and alumni who have worked with target entities.

Be aware many entities hire on a need-basis and may not know their hiring capacity until closer to the hiring period.

### **NETWORKING**

Networking is very important for individuals seeking entry to and success in most practice areas, especially in private public interest practice. During law school, students should join relevant student organizations, including the Food Law Society, Environmental Law Society, National Lawyer's Guild, and others, as they often share networking and job opportunities.

Students and graduates should also join relevant attorney associations and committees, including corresponding listserves. Students and graduates should attend relevant conferences, workshops, and symposia. Students should contact the Office of Career Service and/or the Office of Public Interest Programs about the possibility of using school funds to offset expenses for attendance at those events. Participation in these activities enable students to learn about areas of practice and develop relationships which may lead to a mentor or job opportunities.

If you have any questions regarding navigating the networking processes, law school mentors and career counselors are available to assist.

# IV. PREPARING FOR A CAREER IN PUBLIC INTEREST FOOD LAW PRACTICE

Part IV provides general background on how students can pursue a career in public interest food law practice. Although it is organized according to class year, students and graduates may find the entire discussion useful. Please note, however, that the information provided below should only serve as a guideline as there is no one precise roadmap or timeline on how to best pursue a career in public interest food law practice.

### **1L STUDENTS**

### COURSEWORK AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students entering law school typically have a set curriculum for the entire first year, so 1L students should focus on building a resume that shows a dedication to public interest and food law work through extracurricular activities. Joining the Food Law Society and attending its events is a good start. Students may want to participate in El Centro Legal, which is UCLA School of Law's student-coordinated network of volunteer legal aid clinics.

1L students should also start to get a sense of whether they feel drawn to litigation or transactional work and what issue areas spark their interest. Mock trial and moot court competitions are excellent opportunities for students to strengthen their oral advocacy skills and gain trial-like experience. As journals are a marker of good writing, students should weigh their interest in writing on to UCLA Law Review or joining the staff of another student-edited journal at the law school.

At UCLA Law, students have the opportunity to choose a Modes of Legal Inquiry course. Modes courses are small enrollment courses designed to expose students to some analytical, empirical, theoretical or normative perspective on law that complements and enriches the doctrinal analysis characteristic of most 1L courses. Professor Michael Roberts teaches a Modes course on the role of law in pursuing a moral food system that provides a good introduction to the field.

1L students should also take advantage of networking opportunities when they can. These might include attending public interest and food law networking events. Many law schools, foundations, and attorney associations offer scholarships or volunteer opportunities for students to attend conferences and other networking events for little to no cost. When given the opportunity to network, 1L students should be mindful to take business cards from attorneys working at organizations that interest them and subsequently follow up with the attorneys for possible 2L summer or semester clerkships.

### WHEN AND WHERE TO APPLY

It is not crucial for 1L students to spend their summer at a public interest or food law organization. Students should use summer employment as an opportunity to work in an issue area that interests them and determine whether that area of advocacy is a good fit. In addition to gaining clarity as to the type of work they enjoy or dislike, student should use summer opportunities to strengthen their research and writing, as well as other skills. 1L students can also seek employment that will enable them to further explore their burgeoning interests in litigation, policy, or transactional work.

### **2L STUDENTS**

### COURSEWORK AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

2L students have a significant amount of flexibility in selecting courses to build a strong resume to enter the field of public interest food law. Any student interested in food law should take Administrative Law and/or Legislation and Regulation. 2L students interested in litigation are strongly encouraged to take Evidence during their second year, while students interested in transactional work should consider Advanced Contracts courses. All 2L students are advised to enroll in subject matter courses that interest them. Courses that may touch on and evoke the issues one sees when working in public interest food law include food law and policy, environmental law, public health law, and local government.

2L students should also consider taking clinical courses that give them hands-on experience. UCLA's Food Law and Policy Clinic is one of the few clinics in the nation focused on food justice. The clinic allows students to take on the role of policy advocate within the food justice movement, which calls for positive, systemic change in the areas of food insecurity, public health, workers' rights, urban agriculture, land use, animal welfare, and social entrepreneurship. This clinic is a fantastic experience to get hands-on experience in the kind of work involved in public interest food law practice. Other relevant clinics include the Community Economic Development Clinic and the Frank G. Wells Environmental Law Clinic.

As for extracurricular activities, students will want to be mindful of the same goals presented in the 1L section above and choose activities that show a commitment to public interest food law work. Again, joining the Food Law Society is a good idea. 2L students should also actively seek out networking opportunities, such as conferences and on campus mixers where they can meet attorneys working at firms and in issue areas that interest them. To the extent possible, 2L students should also apply for semester-long externships, which are often paid and may segue into post-graduate employment. Research assistant positions are also available during the summer and semesters and provide an opportunity for students to continue developing their research skills and exploring legal areas of interest.

### WHEN AND WHERE TO APPLY

There are various avenues for students to secure employment at an organization doing work that may touch on public interest food law work during their 2L summer. 2L students can directly submit application materials to organizations beginning late-summer before the start of their 2L year, whether or not the entity advertises available law clerk positions. Application materials generally require a public interest-oriented resume, a writing sample, a list of references, and a cover letter clearly articulating the student's interest in the organization's mission. The cover letter and email to the firm should also clearly articulate whether the 2L student is interested in a summer or semester opportunity (or both). 2L students should plan on contacting or following up throughout the year because organizations without established summer/semester programs may not know their hiring capacity until closer to the hiring period.

### **SUMMER INTERNSHIPS**

Some organizations have summer internships for current law students. It is worthwhile to inquire at organizations you find interesting even if it does not have a posted internship opportunity. If an internship with a nonprofit organization or government agency is unpaid, you may be eligible for the school's Summer Public Service Fellowship Program. Some available internships are:

- O Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, Vermont Law School, Summer Honors Intern Program: This is a full-time summer internship. Interns may work on projects related to farmland access; food labeling and regulation of novel food products; development of a national food policy in the United States; legal barriers facing food hubs; legal resources for farmers markets; food safety regulations for produce farms; food and agriculture communications; food system equity; and biodiversity and agriculture. Interns will receive a stipend. Learn more at <a href="https://www.vermontlaw.edu/academics/centers-and-programs/center-for-agriculture-and-food-systems/people/current-openings">https://www.vermontlaw.edu/academics/centers-and-programs/center-for-agriculture-and-food-systems/people/current-openings</a>.
- Harvard Law School Food and Policy Clinic, Summer Intern: Summer interns in the Food Law and Policy Clinic have the unique opportunity to engage in action-based learning to gain a deeper understanding of the complex challenges facing our current food system. Interns get hands-on experience conducting legal and policy research for individuals, community groups, and government agencies on a wide range of food law and policy issues. Interns are also challenged to develop creative legal and policy solutions to pressing food issues, applying their knowledge from the law school classroom to real-world situations. Summer internships are unpaid. Learn more at <a href="https://www.chlpi.org/about-us/summer-interns-program/">https://www.chlpi.org/about-us/summer-interns-program/</a>.

### **3L STUDENTS**

### COURSEWORK AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

3L students should follow the same guidelines stated above for 2L course selection and extracurricular activities.

### WHEN AND WHERE TO APPLY

While different firms and fellowship programs have different application timelines, 3L students should try to make contact with places of interest by early August. Ideally, one should apply to fellowship programs and firms that are actively hiring, but 3L students should also follow up with attorneys they have networked with in the past to see if anyone might be interested in hiring them or knows of firms hiring recent graduates. 3L students' job search may extend well into the spring semester. 3L students should regularly check organizational websites for open positions and application instructions listed under their "Careers" or "Employment Opportunities" pages.

### **FELLOWSHIPS**

There are a number of post-graduate fellowships for which 3L students can apply, both food law specific and public interest in general. Fellowships are particularly worthwhile because they give fellows an opportunity to gain invaluable work experience and training, provide funding, and are regarded highly by the public interest community. A description of major fellowship opportunities is provided in Part IV of this Guide.

### LL.M. PROGRAMS

### DOMESTIC PROGRAMS

- o Michigan State University College of Law, LL.M. in Global Food Law: Established in 2011, the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Law's Global Food Law Program continues the land-grant tradition of cross and interdisciplinary education to prepare leaders to solve complex, practical problems related to the regulation of food. Our program is designed for students who want to take part in learning the laws of food safety policy and effectively making decisions that affect food regulation across countries. Learn more at <a href="http://globalfood.law.msu.edu/">http://globalfood.law.msu.edu/</a>.
- O University of Arkansas School of Law, LL.M. in Agricultural and Food Law: The first advanced law degree in agricultural and food law was founded at the University of Arkansas School of Law more than 30 years ago. Since that time, the LL.M. Program in Agricultural and Food Law has led the nation in this important area of law, connecting lawyers to our food system, from farm to plate. The LL.M. program offers an expansive curriculum of courses designed specifically for LL.M. candidates taught by nationally recognized scholars and practitioners. Learn more at <a href="https://law.uark.edu/academics/llm-food-ag/">https://law.uark.edu/academics/llm-food-ag/</a>.
- o Vermont Law School, LL.M. in Food and Agriculture Law: Because of its systems-based approach to food and agriculture law, and its location in a state recognized as a leader in sustainable food and agricultural policy, Vermont Law School offers students a unique educational opportunity. Choosing from over 50 courses in environmental law and policy—the widest range of courses offered by any law school—LL.M. candidates each design a curriculum that matches their personal objectives. They also participate in a special LL.M. seminar focusing on advanced research topics related to food and agricultural law and policy. Learn more at <a href="https://www.vermontlaw.edu/academics/degrees/llm/llm-in-food-and-agriculture-law">https://www.vermontlaw.edu/academics/degrees/llm/llm-in-food-and-agriculture-law</a>.

### **INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

- Leicester De Montfort University Law School, LL.M. in Food Law: Students will gain an overview of the legal concepts relevant to the control and administration of the food industry, learn about the statutory control of trading conduct and trade practices through the use of criminal law, learn how food law is enforced, and gain an understanding of the purposes and background of food law, both domestic and EU. Learn more at <a href="http://www.courses.knect365-learning.com/event/food-law-master-of-laws-llm-distance-learning-courses-from-de-montfort-university-dmu?utm\_source=llmguide&utm\_medium=referral&utm\_content=listing&xtssot=0.</a>
- Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali LUISS, LL.M. in Food Law: The faculty of the LL.M. programme is composed of renowned scholars, high officials of regulatory bodies and institutions, as well as prominent agricultural, industrial, commercial operators and experts. The course content ranges from: the institutional grounds of food legislation, to the regulatory tenets of safety, security and environmental protection, to the instruments and bodies of quality and traceability monitoring, to the correct safeguard of consumers, to the requirements for certifications of origin, including "made in", to the legal profiles of distribution and agro-food contractual policies, to the rules of free competition, to the responsibility of business operators along the production-distribution-consumption chain. Particular attention is given to the regulation of technological innovation in the food sector, as well as to bio-agriculture technologies. During the programme, contacts with the "world" of food related activities, organizations and institutions and connected initiatives are already proposed. Learn more at <a href="https://lsl.luiss.it/en/food-law.">https://lsl.luiss.it/en/food-law.</a>
- O Université Laval, School of Law, Environmental Law, Sustainable Development and Food Security: Students tackle the legal problems of environmental law, sustainable development and food security from a global perspective, while opening up to comparative law and interdisciplinarity. Students critically analyze the rules and practices pertaining to this field, while strengthening their analytical capacity, spirit of synthesis, reasoning and ability to communicate. Students receive leading multidisciplinary training in environmental law, sustainable development and food security. Learn more at <a href="https://www.fd.ulaval.ca/etudes/maitrise-droit-environnement-developpement-durable-securite-alimentaire">https://www.fd.ulaval.ca/etudes/maitrise-droit-environnement-developpement-durable-securite-alimentaire</a>.

# V. STUDENT AND RECENT GRADUATE NARRATIVES

The following UCLA School of Law student and recent graduate narratives illustrate the variety of ways in which students can enter private public interest practice, and include tips and strategies interested students can implement during law school to secure public interest employment in the private sector. These student narratives shed light on how students can pursue their dedication to a wide variety of public interest issue areas through private sector employment.

### **JASON LAWLER '19**

I grew up in Santa Rosa, California, in the middle of the Sonoma wine country. Most of my friends grew up around family businesses like wineries, restaurants, and farming operations. Both my

parents work in medicine, but my surroundings instilled in me an appreciation for where our food (and drinks) come from. I have always sought to incorporate the food chain into my professional career, but struggled to conceptualize exactly how. I am the first in my family to attend law school, so my difficulties in understanding how to incorporate food into my career was compounded by a lack of institutional knowledge about the legal field.

When applying to law school, I learned about the Resnick Center for Food Law and Policy at UCLA. I met with Professor Michael Roberts and decided that attending UCLA gave me the best chance to build a career around food law. During law school, I was an active member of the Food Law Society, helping to establish links to a local organic farm and set up a CSA program, before eventually holding the positions of Outreach Coordinator and Executive Chair.

In my first year of law school, I sought out several extracurricular public interest opportunities including pro bono food law work. I assisted a community development attorney in researching entity bylaws and drafting governing provisions for a workers' cooperative running a coffee shop in Lynwood. I was interested in transactional work, so it was exciting to provide substantive legal services to a valuable community-oriented business so early in my legal career.

Through the connections I built during my first year of law school, I was given the opportunity to work as a legal research assistant for a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization committed to fostering a favorable political, legal, and cultural climate for cellular agriculture, an new technology aimed at creating real meat products without the harms of factory farming and animal slaughter. Throughout the fall semester of my 2L year, I performed research related to regulatory compliance, federal policy, and litigation strategy for cutting-edge legal issues faced by the proponents of cellular agriculture. This position was incredibly rewarding, and lead me to the topic of my Law Review comment. I argued by analogy to federal regulation of other cell-based technologies that existing regulations were sufficient to cover products of cellular agriculture since such products are real meat and no aspect of the production process presents concerns greater than those of unregulated analogous processes.

Although I am not currently working directly in the food law space, I continue to engage with pro bono opportunities in food law and policy as I am able. Public interest internships and volunteering are great opportunities to learn important legal skills and connect with ones' interest areas because they are frequently understaffed and the legal issues are largely underappreciated in the legal industry. The network I was able to build through these positions will undoubtedly help me build towards a rewarding and fulfilling career.

### STEPHANIE TEUBER '20

I grew up in Davis, California, and my family was involved in the agriculture industry. From an early age, I learned the value of honesty and transparency in the food system. I chose to attend law school after realizing the importance of lawyers in advancing these goals. In law school I served on the Executive Board of the Food Law Society for two years, was a Managing Editor on the UCLA Journal of Environmental Law and Policy, and was an Articles Editor on the UCLA Law Review.

I spent my first summer of law school working at Compassion Over Killing (COK). COK is a national organization that is using a combination of consumer education, litigation, and policy work to challenge "Big Agriculture" and the meat industry. I found my job at COK through the UCLA Law Public Interest Career Fair, and I interviewed on campus. I chose to work at COK because I

wanted to engage in the work they do. Two areas of food law that I am interested in are sustainable agriculture and food safety, and my summer internship at COK exposed me to the law and policy surrounding both of those areas.

During my time working at COK's Manhattan Beach office, I completed a variety of assignments over the course of the summer, all of which included research and writing and received extensive feedback from my supervisors. My largest project was a memorandum on preemption under the Food Drug and Cosmetics Act (FDCA). Specifically, I researched how COK could overcome a defendant's preemption defense in upcoming food labeling litigation. I completed three different drafts of this memorandum, and portions the final version were included in COK's briefs. For the same lawsuit, I researched how COK can overcome the defendant's puffery defense, and wrote another extensive memorandum.

Although my preemption and puffery assignments spanned the entire summer, I also completed smaller assignments each week. One week, I wrote a comment challenging a rule proposed by the Food Safety Inspection Service, which was submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture with minimal revisions. Another week, I completed a survey examining private rights of action under state laws that are parallel the FDCA.

I also participated in teambuilding activities with the organization, and attended the 2018 Animal Rights Conference with my supervisors and the other interns. My experience at COK was overwhelmingly positive, and I would recommend an internship at COK to any student interested in food law and policy. I completed substantive assignments, received extensive constructive feedback, and felt like I was a valued member of the team.

Although my first job out of law school will be at a large law firm, the skills I developed at COK are directly transferrable. Writing in the context of a job is very different from writing in law school, and the constructive feedback I received during my summer internship at COK has been invaluable. I remain passionate about food law, and I chose my firm specifically because of the opportunities I will have to work on food-related issues in the regulatory sphere.

# VI. INTERVIEW TIPS

When hiring for summer or post-graduate opportunities, hiring attorneys use interviews to assess candidates' academic record, research and writing skills, and experience in the firm's practice areas. Public interest food law opportunities differ from other opportunities in that they look for a commitment to public interest and/or food law in addition to strong academic qualifications. Clinics, summer employment, externships, student organizations, conference attendance, and other activities can indicate interest in the relevant area of food law pertinent to a specific organization. However, organizations have varying degrees of recognition of food law as a distinct practice area and some may not directly refer to the area. Students will likely need to explain their interest in a specific organization and may have to explain how demonstrated food law interest connects to that organization's goals.

### APPLICATION MATERIALS

Because every organization is unique in its goals and clients, students should highlight why they are qualified and why they would be a good addition to the organization. Cover letters, resumes, and interview questions and responses should be tailored to reflect the needs and practice areas of the organization. The Office of Public Interest Programs' Public Interest Resume Guide provides guidance as to how to best prepare a public interest resume and reference list: https://law.ucla.edu/careers/office-of-public-interest-programs/career-guides/.

### PREPARING FOR AN INTERVIEW

Prior to the interview, students should familiarize themselves with the attorneys with whom they will be interviewing and any recent news regarding the organization's recent projects. Online research, current and past employees, and faculty are potentially valuable resources in obtaining a greater understanding of what to expect and how to prepare.

Mock interviews with the Office of Career Services and/or Office of Public Interest Programs can provide constructive feedback in preparation for the actual job interview.

# SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Interviewing for a public interest food law or policy position is similar to interviewing for any other public interest position. Interviewers will likely ask questions to determine whether you are interested in the work that they do and whether you have relevant experience or skills. Each interview is unique, but the following sample questions will be useful as you prepare for an interview and consider whether a position is right for you.

### INTEREST IN PUBLIC INTEREST FOOD LAW

- o Why are you interested in public interest work?
- o How did you become interested in food law/policy?
- Why do you want to work at a (private public interest firm/government agency/NGO/etc.) versus other types of entities?
- O How has your background or personal experiences contributed to your desire to do this work?
- o What did you learn from your previous job experience? What did you enjoy most?

### INTEREST IN WORKING AT THE INTERVIEWING ORGANIZATION

- o How did you find out about our organization?
- o What makes you interested in working for our organization?
- o Why are you interested in working at this office?
- O Why do you want to be in this city?
- o Which office do you prefer? (If the organization has multiple offices)

### INQUIRIES ABOUT SPECIFIC SKILLS

- o Tell us about your research and writing process.
- o Do you work well with fast-paced deadlines?

- What is a strength you possess? What is an example of how that strength has helped you in practice?
- What is a weakness you possess? What is an example of how that weakness presented challenges in a work setting?
  - Even if they do not ask, it is important to indicate how you have been working to improve that weakness or how you intend to address it.
- Why should we hire you over other qualified candidates?

### **COMPATIBILITY**

- O What has been your favorite class in law school? Why?
- O What do you like to do in your free time?
- o What is your working style?
- o Do you prefer collaborative or individual work assignments?

# VII. JOB SEARCH RESOURCES

In addition to this guide, there are many excellent sources to learn more about available public interest food law opportunities. Below are listed other helpful career guides as well as job search engines that may be useful in your search for an internship or post-graduate position.

- O American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA): AILA's "Recent Postings" page lists current job opportunities. Interested students will need to create a student members account to access the postings. Learn more at <a href="http://www.aila.org/">http://www.aila.org/</a>.
- Current Food Law & Policy Career Opportunities: Food law and policy positions posted at <a href="http://www.chlpi.org/food-law-and-policy/flpcareers/current-food-law-and-policy-career-opportunities/">http://www.chlpi.org/food-law-and-policy/flpcareers/current-food-law-and-policy-career-opportunities/</a>.
- o Good Food Jobs: Good Food Jobs is designed to link people looking for meaningful food work with the businesses that need their energy, enthusiasm, and intellect. They post opportunities with farmers and food artisans, policy makers and purveyors, retailers and restaurateurs, economists, ecologists, and more at <a href="https://www.goodfoodjobs.com/">https://www.goodfoodjobs.com/</a>.
- Harvard Food Law Career Guide: You can find the 2017 edition at <a href="https://www.chlpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/FOOD-LAW-AND-POLICY-CAREER-GUIDE 10.17.pdf">https://www.chlpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/FOOD-LAW-AND-POLICY-CAREER-GUIDE 10.17.pdf</a>
- o **Idealist**: Postings for job, internship, and volunteer opportunities with social impact organizations ca be found at <a href="https://www.idealist.org/en/?searchMode=true&type=JOB.">https://www.idealist.org/en/?searchMode=true&type=JOB.</a>
- LCC Hiring Hall: AFL-CIO Lawyers Coordinating Committee publishes monthly online job postings. Students can also opt to include their resume in the LCC Resume Bank, which requires a sponsor through an LCC attorney or affiliated professor. Learn more at <a href="http://lcc.aflcio.org/public/career-corner/hiring-hall/">http://lcc.aflcio.org/public/career-corner/hiring-hall/</a>.
- o National Lawyers Guild (NLG): The NLG homepage has a "Referral Directory" tab that includes contact information for attorney members at <a href="https://www.nlg.org/">https://www.nlg.org/</a>.

- O Public Service Jobs Directory (PSJD): PSJD is a database of public interest employers in the United States and abroad. To find public interest law firms, click "Search," under "Advanced Search" select "Search for Employer Profiles," and from there, select "Law Firm—Public Interest Focus" as the employer type. From there, you can narrow your results based on particular practice areas. Each entry includes contact in formation, a description of the firm, and a link to the website and job opportunities, if available. Find the database at <a href="https://www.psjd.org/">https://www.psjd.org/</a>.
- O UCLA Government Career Guide: https://law.ucla.edu/~/media/Assets/Office%20of%20Public%20Interest%20Programs/Documents/UCLA%20Careers%20in%20Government%20Guide--2018v3.ashx
- o UCLA Public Interest Private Firm Career Guide: https://law.ucla.edu/~/media/Assets/Office%20of%20Public%20Interest%20Programs/Documents/Careers%20in%20Private%20Public%20Interest%20Firms%20Final%20v2.ashx
- O UCLA School of Law's Symplicity Job Board: The job board is accessible to all UCLA Law students. Learn more at <a href="https://law-ucla-csm.symplicity.com/students/?s=%20home&signin\_tab=0">https://law-ucla-csm.symplicity.com/students/?s=%20home&signin\_tab=0</a> and contact the Office of Career Services with any questions.

# CONCLUSION

Food law is still a new field, and encompasses many disparate areas of the law. This volume of UCLA's Careers in series introduces students to the field and the many exciting areas of practice that can be pursued. Although it is by no means a complete list of resources, our hope is that this guide will foster law students' interest in a career path in public interest food law and policy and help them to gain an understanding of the courses and extracurricular activities that will equip them to apply for positions.