



Harvard

Food Law and Policy Clinic

A Division of the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation

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The New Federal Administration & Food Law and Policy: Looking Ahead

Following the results of November's election, FLPC published a blog post reflecting on what this new Administration (and continuing majorities in both the House and Senate) could mean for food policy, broadly, and our work at the Clinic. Though food policy was not an explicit campaign issue, we assessed how it relates to the broader policy agenda that emerged during the campaign as well as longstanding political battles. In particular, we focused on five key policy areas in which we have worked and will continue to work: 1) reducing food waste, 2) SNAP and the Farm Bill, 3) school food, 4) state and local policy opportunities, and 5) rural development and rural food systems. While much still remains uncertain, we are actively tracking developments across these policy areas – as well as others – and will continuously assess our work to ensure that we are responding to challenges as they arise and fulfilling our mission.

[Continue reading FLPC's statement on the incoming administration.](#)

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Current and Former FLPC Student Highlights

Tommy Tobin, Spring 2015 student, recently published the article "[Seeing Red: Tomatoes, Salmonella, Takings, & Torts](#)" in the Harvard Law and Policy Review. His writing can also be seen in the recent Mic article "[Science & Food Aid – It's in the Bag.](#)"

Mark Brennan, Fall 2015 student, recently wrote an op-ed for [nj.com](#). Read "[Is N.J. still the Garden State? 2017 Census will offer an answer.](#)"

Past Events



[Sugar Stands Accused When FLPC Hosts Talk with Gary Taubes](#)

On January 11, 2017, FLPC hosted Gary Taubes, the best-selling author of *Why We Get Fat*, for a discussion on his new book *The Case Against Sugar*.

Recent FLPC News and Reports

[FLPC Releases Toolkit to Promote Food Waste Reduction in States and Localities](#)

On October 26, 2016, FLPC released *Keeping Food Out of the Landfill: Policy Ideas for States and Localities*. This toolkit provides comprehensive information on eight different policy areas that states and localities can consider as they ramp up efforts to reduce food waste.

[FLPC and the Conservation Law Foundation \(CLF\) release second edition of *Farm & Food Law: A Guide for Lawyers in the Legal Food Hub Network*](#)

The second edition of the guide to help attorneys build successful relationships with Massachusetts small-scale farmers and food entrepreneurs expands on the first to address a wider scope of the legal needs of small-scale farmers, including two brand new chapters on farmland acquisition and taxation.

[Screening Toolkit for the film *Expired* is Now Available](#)

The screening toolkit contains helpful advice for preparing to screen the documentary for the public, discussion questions and talking points to get the conversation started, advice on how to take action to combat food waste and reform expiration date labels, and additional resources from other leaders in the food waste reduction movement.

[FLPC and NRDC Release New Fact Sheet on Strengthening Liability Protections for Food Donation](#)

This newly released fact sheet on the the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act explains five ways the law should be updated and implemented to expand and strengthen the protections—and ensure they better align with the current food-recovery landscape.

Upcoming Reports from FLPC

Enhancing Food Donations Through Federal Policy: This spring, FLPC and the Natural Resources Defense Council will publish a national policy paper that analyzes various existing areas of federal law that merit reconsideration or reform to meet the goal of increased food donation.

Food Conservation and Recovery in Farm Bill White Paper: Every five to seven years, Congress passes legislation known as the "farm bill," which is a complex but critical piece of legislation that impacts our entire food system. This spring, FLPC will publish a white paper that highlights several opportunities for the farm bill to promote food conservation, food recovery and ultimately reduce wasted food.

Cottage Food Laws in the United States Updated Report: This spring, FLPC will publish an update to its 2013 policy report on the various state laws that allow for the production of low-risk food items in home kitchens. The updated report will include up-to-date research of the cottage food laws in all 50 states and recommendations on how states can reduce barriers to entry for sales of low-risk home-cooked foods.

FLPC Introduces New Program Coordinator

We are happy to welcome Alyssa Chan to the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic as a Program Coordinator!

Alyssa joined the Harvard Law School Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation at the start of the year after having been a 2016 summer intern. Alyssa is a recent graduate of Harvard College, with a degree in Chemistry and Earth and Planetary Sciences. As FLPC's Program Coordinator, she will manage the National Law School Farm Bill Research Consortium, which unites leading food, agriculture, and environmental programs spanning seven law schools and the Food Law Student Network. Alyssa will also support the food waste initiative, which advocates for policy change to decrease unnecessary food waste.

From the Blog

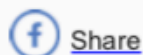


Watch the recording from November's ["Transforming Our Food System"](#) panel discussion, with speakers Mark Bittman, Emily Broad Leib of FLPC, and Ricardo Salvador of the Union of Concerned Scientists.



The second [Food Law Student Leadership Summit](#), cohosted by FLPC and Drake University Law School's Agricultural Law Center, with support from the Food Law Student Network, was held in Iowa from September 30 to October 2, 2016.

Spread the Word



[Dates On Food Labels May Actually Start To Make Some Sense](#)

Food labels were long thought to protect consumers from eating spoiled products. [...]

[FLPC Applauds USDA Revised Guidance on Date Labeling to Reduce Food Waste](#)

FLPC is thrilled to share that the USDA has updated its guidance for food manufacturers and retailers, encouraging them to use a "Best if Used By" date label for their products. [...]

[Hunger For Change](#)

At the same time the government urges Americans to eat healthy foods, it heavily subsidizes farmers who produce corn and other crops used in junk foods, and invests little in those who grow fruits and vegetables. [...]

[Fresh Look At Organics Bans And Waste Recycling Laws](#)

At a time when millions of Americans are food insecure and thousands of farmers struggle to stay afloat, the negative consequences of wasting food extend far beyond the environmental impacts and loss of resources that could have been otherwise allocated. [...]

Career Opportunities in Food Law and Policy

Below are some highlighted jobs that are currently available now. More opportunities in food law and policy can be found on our [website](#) and in the [FLPC Career Guide](#).

- [Director of Zero Waste Initiatives, Philabundance](#)
- [Food-Law Fellowship, The Center for Science in the Public Interest \(CSPI\)](#)
- [Farm and Food Legal Fellow, Rhode Island Conservation Law Foundation \(CLE\)](#)
- [Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future \(CLE\): Food System Sustainability & Public Health Program Coordinator](#)

Upcoming Events



2017 Just Food? Forum on Labor Across the Food System

April 1, 2017
Harvard Law School

Registration and list of speakers to come!

The Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic (FLPC) is an experiential learning program of Harvard Law School devoted to educating students about the laws and policies structuring the food system while offering them opportunities to work hands-on with clients and partners in this field. [Learn more about FLPC.](#)

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