

JANIE SIMMS HIPPI, J.D., LL.M.

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Citizen of the Chickasaw Nation

Chief Executive Officer, Native Agriculture Financial Services (NAFS)

(2023-present)

- Beginning August 1, 2023, assumed the position of founding Chief Executive Officer of the nation's first Other Financing Institution (OFI) serving the access to capital needs of the nation's Native American agriculture sector and the communities in which they live; the OFI is part of the nationwide Farm Credit System of lending institutions
- Responsible for all aspects of creation of NAFS administrative offices; including establishment of all internal policies, administrative oversight and compliance, finance and accounting systems, lending policies, and human capital systems, including work with the NAFS Board to establish lending and underwriting policies; establishment of robust technical assistance infrastructure to provide wrap-around support services to Native American borrowers; support of the national underwriting school for Native CDFI lending institutions to support agriculture loan underwriting; support of a robust technical assistance program providing wrap-around services to Native American agriculture producers

General Counsel, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

(2021-2023)

- Served as chief legal advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture, Thomas J. Vilsack, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Washington DC
- Presidential appointment by President Joseph R. Biden; confirmation by the United States Senate Agriculture Committee (PAS)
- Managed and oversaw a staff of over 250 lawyers, paralegals, and administrative professionals located in 12 field offices and Washington DC
- Oversaw the USDA Office of Ethics and USDA Office of Information Affairs
- Responsible for interdepartmental leadership on all legal and policy issues with which USDA is involved
- Interaction with the White House policy and legal advisors, Congress, Department of Justice, and other Federal departments on a regular basis
- Responsible for strategic direction of the Office of General Counsel
- Interface with all mission areas and offices of the USDA on significant policy and legal matters; responsible for providing legal advice and counsel to all professionals working with the USDA
- USDA has approximately 100,000 employees across every county in the United States and in over 70 embassies around the world
- USDA is responsible for leadership of policy for the United States in agriculture production, federal farm programs, crop insurance and risk management, conservation, agriculture trade, food safety, agricultural marketing and regulatory programs, food and

agriculture (including climate) research, economic analysis, the Forest Service system, and the federal nutrition programs

- The first Native American individual to be nominated, confirmed, and serve as General Counsel of USDA; the fourth woman to be nominated, confirmed, and serve as General Counsel of USDA since 1905

Volunteer Service, Biden-Harris Presidential Transition Team; November 2020-January 2021

Teaching Responsibilities

- University of Arkansas School of Law; LLM Graduate Law program in Food and Agriculture Law; Indigenous Food and Agriculture Law
- Oklahoma City University School of Law; Indigenous Food and Agriculture Law

Chief Executive Officer, Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF)

(2018-2021)

- During the period of July through December 2018, served as CEO of NAAF under consulting contract relationship between Native Solutions, LLC (see explanation below) and *Keepseagle* class counsel law firm of Cohen Milstein of Washington DC
- Beginning January 2019, began direct employment contract relationship with NAAF to serve as CEO
- Appointment as CEO of NAAF approved by federal district court during conclusion of an almost two decades long civil rights ECOA litigation against the federal government (*Keepseagle v. Vilsack*)
- NAAF is the nation's largest philanthropic organization with over \$266M in assets focused solely on providing grants and programs to support business assistance, agricultural education, technical support and advocacy services to Native American farmers and ranchers to support their continued engagement in agriculture
- Responsible for all aspects of creation of NAAF administrative offices, including establishment of all internal policies, administrative oversight and compliance, investment management systems, finance and accounting systems and human capital systems; collaboration with all senior leadership and Trustees in the creation of policies related to finance, accounting, human resources, investment, and programmatic grant-making development
- Conceptualization and development of NAAF's programmatic design for grant making; NAAF is responsible for grant making and charitable and educational deployment of NAAF assets over a spend-down period of 20 years beginning in 2018 and expiring in 2038
- Responsible for identification and deployment of philanthropic and investment partners to NAAF to augment the mission of the organization
- Primary author of *Reimagining Native Food Economies: A Vision for Native Food and Agriculture Infrastructure Rebuilding and Recovery* (2020); a NAAF publication identifying opportunities for Native food economies by focusing on agriculture infrastructure needs

Director, Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFAI); University of Arkansas Fayetteville
School of Law
(2013-2018)

- Responsible for founding and launch of the nation's first law school-based Indigenous initiative focusing on model food and agriculture code development, strategic food and agriculture business analysis and planning, food safety technical assistance, health and nutrition law and policy analysis
- Launch of the Native Youth in Food and Agriculture Summer Leadership Summit; focused on development of a professional pipeline of food, health, and agriculture next-generation Native leaders and scientists
- Primary author and/or co-author of:
 - *Feeding Ourselves: Food access, health disparities, and the pathways to healthy Native American communities*; commissioned by the American Heart Association Voices for Healthy Kids, 2015
 - *Intertribal Food Systems: A national intertribal survey and report*; funded by the W.K.Kellogg Foundation, 2015
 - *Regaining Our Future: An Assessment of Risks and Opportunities for Native Communities in the 2018 Farm Bill*; commissioned by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Seeds of Native health campaign, 2017; co-author Colby Duren, JD
- Launched the Native Farm Bill Coalition (NFBC), and served as the Research and Technical Analysis Partner; NFBC was created in 2017 to focus on elevating federal policy options important to Native agriculture; jointly led the research and data analysis needs related to the Coalition's work on the 2018 Farm Bill; NFBC still exists and has over 200 affiliate Tribal government/organization coalition members across the United States
- Partner and collaborator with various Indian Country food and agriculture organizations, including nonprofit and educational institutions, on a wide variety of projects and programs
- Partner with various food and agriculture sector organizations and business entities, as well as health, food security, and anti-hunger policy organizations
- Partner with the National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations, a federal food distribution program serving 276 federally recognized Tribes; staffing the organization in all matters related to the USDA Food and Nutrition Service Tribal Consultation Working Group
- Grant Administrator and Project Director for all IFAI funded projects, including over \$8M in awards from the following grantors:
 - Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux community Seeds of Native Health campaign
 - MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
 - Agua Fund, Inc.
 - W.K.Kellogg Foundation
 - United States Department of Agriculture (RMA, FSA, NRCS, RD, NIFA)

- Food and Drug Administration; IFAI was designated as the Native American Outreach, Training, Technical Assistance, and Education Center for national compliance and training efforts for the federal Food Safety Modernization Act
- Farm Credit System
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- NoVo Foundation
- Conservation Fund, Inc.
- Full listing available on request

Of Counsel, Olsson Frank Weeda Terman and Matz, Washington DC

(2013-2014)

- Of Counsel to the firm's Tribal government and agriculture/food clients
- The OFW firm specializes in food and agriculture legal issues focusing primarily on USDA and FDA concerns on behalf of their clients and is the nation's premier agricultural and food boutique law firm

Senior Advisor to the Secretary, Tribal Relations, USDA, Director of the Office of Tribal Relations in the Office of the Secretary; Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack, U.S. Department of

Agriculture

(November 2009-January 2013)

- As a political appointee Senior Executive Service, responsible for senior policy advisory role to the Secretary of Agriculture; worked across all departments and agencies of USDA on all matters relating to the American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian tribal sovereignty, tribal consultation, and USDA service delivery across Indian Country
- Founded the first Office of Tribal Relations in the Office of the Secretary, USDA
- Responsible for management of the Office of Tribal Relations working across all agencies and departmental offices and interfacing with all Tribal governments in the nation
- Point of contact on Tribal Relations and Tribal Consultation for USDA
- Point of contact for the White House and the Office of Management and Budget on USDA Tribal Consultation compliance requirements under EO 13175
- Engagement in USDA's settlement of civil rights litigation
- Intergovernmental and interdepartmental coordination in relation to the federal trust responsibility
- Responsible for review and approval of all USDA regulations impacting USDA's responsibilities under EO 13175
- Engagement with the US Forest Service on policies impacting sacred sites and broader responsibilities on Tribal consultation
- Engagement with Congressional staff in relation to issues impacting native communities and Tribal governments
- Policy leader for USDA on all Tribal relations matters

Director, Risk Management Education Division, US Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency (RMA), Washington DC

(July 2009-November 2009)

- Responsible for national leadership of the Risk Management Education program for the USDA Risk Management Agency; RMA is the administration agency in USDA working with the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and its board to address the crop insurance and general risk management education needs of the nation's farmers and ranchers
- Co-lead of a USDA-wide group related to the needs of women involved in farming and ranching (Women and Working Lands)
- Work with 10 regional offices in coordination of substantial involvement with all grant funded projects of the RME Division
- Work across all insurance Services Division offices to incorporate training and education needs into the mission of the agency
- Supervision of team of Grants and Agreement Specialists working directly with all awardees of the agency in assuring financial management and program management goals are met in funded risk management education projects

National Program Leader (NPL), National Institute of Food and Agriculture, US Department of Agriculture, Washington DC

(April 2007-July 2009)

- Served as the career federal employee NPL for Risk Management Education, Farm Financial Management, Trade Adjustment Assistance, and the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program
 - National co-leadership for the \$18M (annual) beginning farmer and rancher development grant program providing outreach, education, training, and technical assistance through an annual competitive grant program
 - Responsible for national leadership of a \$5M (annual) risk management education grant program administered through four regional risk education centers and the Center for Farm Financial Management
 - Responsible for national leadership of the \$90M (annual) grant and training/technical assistance program for farmers and fishermen adjusting to market distorting agriculture imports
 - Responsible for national leadership of farm financial management specialists; approximately \$10M (annual) in special grants and special projects; and over \$200M (annual) in formula funded projects in all states and territories
 - Liaison to the National Extension Farm Income Tax Committee, the last remaining outside committee advising IRS regarding taxation issues related to agriculture production which culminates in the annual IRS special publication 225
 - Co-coordinator of the national Community of Practice for agriculture lawyers for eXtension; creator of USDA agriculture law seminar series
 - Oversight to the Native American Farm Tax Guide project; a project competitively awarded through USDA RMA and NIFA designed to provide specialized tax education tools for Native American producers deriving income from the land
 - Liaison with all national education, research, and extension programs relating to all designated leadership content areas and federal agencies (RMA, US Forest Service, USDA Foreign Ag Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural

- Resources Conservation Service, USDA Economic Research Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and others) as well as private and community-based partners and grantees of the federal government
- Co-leadership for national effort linking farm management and farm family financial security curriculum to aid farm families in improving financial security, including focus on estate planning and farm succession
 - Co-Chair of the USDA Women and Working Lands working group focused on coordination and cooperation in federal services provided to women farm and ranch owners and operators
 - Leader, national initiative to improve educational programs focusing on estate planning and farm succession within the agricultural community
 - Participant, U.S. Dairy Sustainability Summit
 - Member, Ecosystems Services Working Group, Science for Sustainability Working Group, Diversity Working Group, VisionPlus teams within USDA NIFA; liaison to the Director of the USDA Office of Sustainable Development
 - Additional information and duties available upon request

Agricultural Law and Natural Resources Public Policy Specialist, and Assistant Professor of Agricultural Law, Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service; University of Arkansas Fayetteville
(2000-2007)

- Responsible for development of statewide, regional, and national public policy educational programs relevant to legal, policy, and regulatory concerns of agricultural, natural resources and rural community audiences
 - Co-convener: Arkansas Women in Agriculture nonprofit organization and launch of the Arkansas Women in Agriculture annual conference
 - Co-convener: Arkansas Women in Agriculture (non-profit organization); service on initial board creating the organization
 - Co-convener: Native Women and Youth in Agriculture (national intertribal nonprofit organization)
 - Co-convener of multi-agency annual educational program: Arkansas Water: New Challenges New Solutions
 - Co-creator and contributing educator, Public Issues Education Center University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service; multi-issue curriculum and policy issues analysis including water law, water quality, and water scarcity and public education program regarding pending state questions
- Teaching Responsibilities, University of Arkansas Fayetteville, including:
 - Agricultural Law, College of Agriculture
 - Environmental Law, College of Agriculture
 - Environmental Justice, College of Engineering and Honors College
 - Administrative Law, Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences and Department of Political Science
 - Graduate Agricultural Research Seminar, University of Arkansas School of Law

- Adjunct Professor, University of Arkansas Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law, emerging Issues in Food and Agriculture law
- National Policy Advisor
 - National policy advisory activities concerning agriculture law and policy, sustainability, and related issues; indigenous food and agriculture policy; labor; food safety; contract food production; ag marketing; environmental and natural resource allocation and use; land use; water law; animal health and welfare; risk management; animal identification; local food systems development; emerging agricultural legal issues
 - *Science for Sustainability* (funded by CSREES/SARE/Winrock International)
 - *Making Changes: Turning Local Visions into National Solutions* (funded by Wallace Center for Agricultural and Environmental Policy/Winrock International/W.K.Kellogg Foundation)
 - *The Future of Animal Agriculture in North America* (funded by Farm Foundation)
 - *The 2007 Farm Bill: U.S. Producer Preferences for Agricultural, Food and Public Policy* (funded by Farm Foundation); authorship of four policy proposals for 2007 Farm Bill discussions (funded by Farm Foundation)
 - *National Public Policy Issues Education* (funded by Farm Foundation)
- Grant Administration
 - Co-Principal Investigator on project addressing Native Women in Agriculture/Small Business; risk management; business management and land tenure issues funded by USDA CSREES
 - Co-Principal Investigator on two projects addressing risk management issues of Native American agriculture producers funded by USDA RMA
 - Cooperator on numerous grants addressing legal/risk and financial needs of aging agricultural producers, including Native producers, funded by USDA and HHS
 - Co-Project Director, *Truth or Consequences: The Future of Contracts in Agriculture*; project funded by Farm Foundation involving Arkansas and American Farm Bureau office and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
 - Consultant, Mid-Sized Meat Processors; project examining the challenges facing mid-sized and small-sized meat and poultry processors, funded by USDA FSIS and NIFA
 - National Center for Agricultural Law Research and Information, funded through the USDA National Agricultural Library (\$500k + annual operating budget); launched in 1987 and continuing to present

Consultant

(1999-2007 and 2016-present)

- Sole Proprietor Consultant (1999-2007)
- Native Solutions, LLC (2016-2021; 2023-present); President; organization was dormant during service as General Counsel, USDA

- Consultant advisory services to Tribal governments and non-Native food and agriculture business investment and economic development organizations, governments, nonprofits, and educational institutions
- Policy, legal research, and situational analysis addressing issues related to food and agriculture, including sustainable and organic agriculture; rural economic development; cooperative development; food security; food safety; animal disease; human nutrition; and the interrelationships between agriculture, the consumer and the environment
 - Clients include: Winrock International, Little Rock AR & Arlington VA; the Wallace Center for Agricultural and Environmental Policy at Winrock International, Arlington VA; Intertribal Agriculture Council, Billings MT; Indian Land Tenure Foundation, St. Paul MN; Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Poteau OK; Cherokee nation, Tahlequah OK; Foundation for Organic Resource Management, Fayetteville AR; Legal Research Network, Los Angeles, CA; Environmental Protection Agency, United States Department of Agriculture; EEmange, Inc.; Tyson Foods, Springdale AR; Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma; Ute Tribe; Osage Nation; full listing available on request
- Client publications analyzing agricultural law issues; forest products development; food safety; farmland preservation; environmental implications of agricultural practices; sustainable agriculture; marketing of agricultural products; export market requirements; food safety; food processing development; infrastructure development; community facilities development; export market readiness; financial feasibility studies and market analysis
- Grant coordination on projects related to agricultural law and policy related areas
- Frequent speaker on full range of agricultural legal issues, including legal issues relating to Native agriculture production and sustainable agriculture production

President, Firefly Enterprises, Inc., dba Spinning Star Fabrics, Fayetteville, AR
(2000-2007)

- Owner of private retail fabric store in Fayetteville, AR

Director of Public Policy, Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Poteau, OK
(1999)

- Director of Public Policy for a family-held research nonprofit organization located in Poteau, OK focused on sustainable agriculture research and public education
- Left the Kerr Center to return to Fayetteville, AR and launch a private retail company in addition to return to teaching at the University of Arkansas

Interim Director, Associate Director & Staff Attorney, Fellow at National Center for Agricultural Law Research and Information; Assistant Research Professor of Law, University of Arkansas School of Law, Fayetteville AR
(1992-1999)

- Fellow, (August 1992-August 1993); Staff Attorney & Assistant Research Professor of Law, (August 1993-August 1996); Associate Director & Assistant Research Professor of Law, (August 1996-August 1998); Interim Director (August 1998-October 1999)

- Responsible for administration of national agricultural law center and all aspects of the center's work; comprehensive legal publications in all areas of agricultural law, with heavy emphasis on environmental issues involved in agriculture production, private and public land use, international trade, sustainable agriculture, and rural economic development issues. Full listing of publication titles available on request (over 100 titles)
- Frequent national presenter on the myriad of agricultural law topics for lawyers and agricultural producer community. Full listing of presentations available on request
- Primary responsibility, including authorship and editorial responsibilities for numerous state survey projects involving review of environmental, land use, farmland preservation, animal health, food safety and poultry production laws in the United States
- Primary responsibility for two fifty-state projects and two multi-state projects providing a comprehensive overview of all state and local laws pertaining to the full range of issues facing livestock producers. Full listing of public titles available on request
- Teaching responsibilities: Administrative Law, Department of Political Science and Graduate Research Seminar in Agricultural law, School of Law
- Video production grant concerning nuisance, right-to-farm law and other related environmental/agricultural concerns funded through Southern Region SARE
- Supervised staff of attorneys and numerous annually appointed graduate fellows
- Annual educational offerings and periodic policy briefings on agricultural policy and Farm Bill issues to Congressional staff

Consultant to Center for International Trade Development, Oklahoma State University,

Stillwater, OK

(1992-1993)

- Research and advisory services examining potential for economic and employment growth from an enhanced value-added agricultural sector within the State of Oklahoma
- Developed plan for statewide enhancement of trade development services to state employers

Associate Director and Special Counsel to the Executive Director, Oklahoma Employment

Security Commission, Oklahoma City, OK

(1991-1992)

- Responsible for management and supervision of employees of one-third of the state's 77 county job training and unemployment benefit offices
- Special Counsel to the Executive Director and the Executive Team
- Supervisor, Division of Hearings and Appeals
- Official liaison to the Oklahoma Legislature
- Chair, *Committee to Examine the Use of Independent Contractors within the State of Oklahoma*, committee appointed by the Chair, Oklahoma Employment Security Commission and the Office of the Governor
- Supervision of the job training, labor market analysis, veteran services, and employment services divisions of the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission

Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General Robert H. Henry, State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK
(1987-1991)

- Staff liaison to the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) Agriculture and Rural Legal Affairs Committee
- Prepared and presented testimony concerning the national farm credit crisis before the United States Senate Agriculture Committee
- Drafted agricultural legislation and advised the Oklahoma Attorney General and the Oklahoma Legislature on agricultural issues
- Served as General Counsel to 12 agencies of state government, including: Oklahoma department of Agriculture; Oklahoma Health Planning Commission; Oklahoma department of Health; Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Board; Engineers and Land Surveyors Board; Board of Regents for Higher Education; Board of Public Accountancy; Board of Osteopathic Examiners; Board of Banking Examiners; and others
- Served as state expert on administrative rulemaking, agency hearing processes, and all laws ensuring transparency in government including the Oklahoma Administrative Procedures Act, the Oklahoma Open Records Act and the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act
- Prepared CLE training materials and conducted training sessions on administrative rulemaking and open government for lawyers and non-lawyers statewide
- Prosecuted violations of the Oklahoma Open Meetings and Open Records Acts
- Defended the State in tort claims cases
- Defended the State in administrative hearings and appeals from administrative rulings
- Prosecuted violations of public health laws

Private Law Practice and Law Clerk Positions, Oklahoma City OK
(1982-1987)

- Practice as Attorney with Oklahoma firm of McKinney, Stringer and Webster (August 1984-August 1986)
 - Practice focused on commercial litigation, bankruptcy, mortgage foreclosure litigation, securities litigation, complex business litigation, banking law
- Practice as Attorney with Jerry L. Steward and Associates (August 1986-August 1987)
 - Practice focused on commercial litigation, bankruptcy, mortgage foreclosure limitation, securities litigation, complex business litigation and education law
- Law Clerk, Oklahoma Supreme Court, assigned to the Chief Justice (August 1983-August 1984)
 - Work focused on preparing briefing materials for appeals before the Oklahoma Supreme Court
- Law Clerk, Legal Aid of Western Oklahoma (August 1982-August 1983)
 - Work focused on federal and state unemployment compensation, workers compensation, social security disability, and other benefit entitlement program appeals; caseload of over 150 individuals

Education

- Undergraduate Hours, 1973-1975, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK (major: Sociology and English); Academic scholarships awarded by Oklahoma State University (1973-1975)
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Social Work, 1975-1978, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK
- Juris Doctor (J.D.), (1981-1984), Oklahoma City University School of Law, Oklahoma City, OK
 - Member: Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity; Oklahoma City University School of Law (1982-1984). Received AmJur Awards for highest rank in individual courses of legal study (1982,1983, and 1984)
- Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Agriculture and Food Law, 1992-1993 (coursework completed); 1996 (degree awarded post thesis), University of Arkansas School of Law, Fayetteville, AR
 - Fellow: National Center for Agricultural Law Research and Information; University of Arkansas School of Law (1992 & 1993); Scholarship/Internship: University of Arkansas School of Law, LLM in Agricultural Law (1992-1993)

Honors and Awards for Leadership

- Dynamic Woman of the Chickasaw Nation, 2025
- Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame, April 2024
- University of Arkansas Alumni Association National Board, 2023-present; Chair of Internal Relations Committee; service on the Award Committee
- Prosperity Now Leadership Award, 2022
- “Honored One” Leadership Award, Sovereignty Symposium, 2022
- Excellence in Agricultural Law Award, American Agricultural Law Association, 2014 & 2019
- Recognition of Leadership; Intertribal Agriculture Council, 2018
- Tim Wapato Public Advocate of the Year Award; awarded by the National Center for American Indian Economic Development, 2017
- Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Service; awarded by President Barack Obama and presented by the Corporation for National and Community Service, 2016
- Oklahoma City University Law Distinguished Alumni Award, 2016
- Recognition of Leadership; National Association of Food Distribution on Indian Reservation Program Managers, 2016
- University of Arkansas Distinguished Alumni Award, 2014
- Honorary American FFA Degree: National FFA Organization; 2012
- Women in Blue Jeans Spirit and Inspiration Award: South Dakota Women in Agriculture organization; 2009

Professional Membership, Licensure, and Board Memberships

- Board memberships:
 - Member, University of Arkansas Alumni Association, National Board (2023-present)
 - Member, University of Arkansas Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee; Advisory Committee to the Chancellor; Fayetteville AR (2021)

- U.S. Farmers and Ranchers in Action; Washington DC; Member, Board of Directors (2020-2021)
- Food Research and Action Center (FRAC); Member, Board of Directors (2018-2021); Board of Directors (2024 – present)
- National Farm to School Network; Member, Advisory Council (2018-2020)
- TRUE Advisory Group Northwest Arkansas, Member, Advisory Council (2018-2020); advisory council working on racial injustice, diversity and inclusion within the Northwest Arkansas region
- Center for Indian Country Development, Minneapolis Federal Reserve, St. Paul, MN; Member Advisory Council (2016-2020)
- Farmers Legal Action Group, St. Paul, MN; Member, Board of Directors (2013-2016)
- USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, Southern Region Administrative Council; Vice Chair (2000-2001); Chari, (2001-2002)
- Member, State Bar of Oklahoma, admitted 1985; OBA #11165
 - Member, Oklahoma Bar Association (1985-present)
 - OBA Mental Health Committee
 - OBA Farm Crisis Task Force
 - OBA Agricultural Law Section
 - OBA Indian Law Section
 - OBA Women in Law (Past President 1986)
 - Admitted to Practice before the US District Court for the Western, Eastern and Northern Districts of Oklahoma and the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals
- Member, American Bar Association (1985-present)
 - Dispute Resolution Section
 - Environmental Law Section
 - Government Practice Section
- Member, Federal Bar Association (2013-present)
 - Indian Law Section
- Member, American Agricultural Law Association (1992-present)
 - Editorial Board, Agricultural Law Update publication

Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers; Federal Advisory Committee (FACA); advisory body to the Secretary of Agriculture; USDA Secretary Johanns (2005-2007); SUDA Secretary Schafer (2008)

Member, Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB); Federal Advisory Committee (FACA); advisory body to the Secretary of the Treasury (2024 – present)

Member, Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee (FRRCC); Federal Advisory Committee (FACA); advisory body to the Administrator, Environmental Protection Committee (2024 – present)

Professional Experience, Non-Legal

- Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
 - Assistant Director of Planning (1980-1982); Leadership of statewide planning for all mental health, drug, and alcohol services in the State of Oklahoma; Co-lead of federal block grant funding transition for the Department
 - Affirmative Action Officer (1978-1980); Leadership for grievance and affirmative action program and process; statewide employee relations training; liaison to the US Department of Labor and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

International Presentations & Engagements

- Lead Instructor, USDA and EPA joint program within the Middle East Peace Process effort; sponsored through Foreign Agriculture Service and the U.S. Department of State; “Air Pollution Regulation: Improving Compliance Through Incentives and Education;” Core Parties included Israel, Palestine, and Jordan; workshop held in Istanbul, Turkey (August 2008)
- People's Republic of China: Organic Food Mission examining emerging China organic sector; site visits in Beijing, Jinan, Weifang, Qingdao and Shanghai; funded through USDA Foreign Agricultural Service through Research and Scientific Exchange program US/PRC (August 2003)
- Slovakia; Advisor to the Slovak Ministry of Agriculture, Bratislava, Slovakia; funded by the US Agency for International Development; involved examination and advisory services concerning agricultural law and farm policy development post-Velvet Revolution (January-February 1997)
- Educational exchange participant with agricultural specialists from the former Soviet Union and Ukraine; coordination of educational experiences of participants from Russia-Ukraine and served on exchange visit to Moscow (1995-1997)
- Lecturer on variety of agricultural and policy related issues, various agricultural and technical schools in rural northern Chile (1995-1998)

Selected Publications & Selected Presentation Topics

- *Oklahoma Administrative Rulemaking: The 1987 Revisions* (1988)
- *Sustaining the Family Farm: Old and New Tools for Survival in a World of Contracts and Corporations* (1990)
- Copeland, Hipp, et al., *Environmental Laws Affecting Agricultural Operations*; 50-state series examining law and regulations concerning water and air quality, wetlands, pesticide, safe drinking water, coastal zone management, hazardous waste and toxic substances, endangered species, emergency planning and community notification laws (1997)
- Copeland, Hipp, et al., *Environmental Laws Impacting Livestock Producers*, NCALRI publication series releasing 50 separate titles (1997)
- *Food Assistance, Nutrition Programs and the USDA*; West's Federal Practice Manual (1997)
- *Food Safety Laws and Regulations*; Project coordinator & Editor; 50-state series examining federal and state food safety laws (1999)

- *A Practical Guide to Food Safety Regulation* (2007)
- *Feeding Ourselves: Food access, health disparities, and the pathways to healthy Native American communities*; commissioned by the American Heart Association Voices for Healthy Kids (2015)
- *Intertribal Food Systems: A national intertribal survey and report*; funded by the W.K.Kellogg Foundation (2015)
- *Regaining Our Future: An Assessment of Risks and Opportunities for Native Communities in the 2018 Farm Bill*; commissioned by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Seeds of Native Health campaign (2017); co-author Colby Duren, JD
- *Reimagining Native Food Economies: A Vision for Native Food and Agriculture Infrastructure Rebuilding and Recovery*; a NAAF publication identifying opportunities for Native food economies by focusing on infrastructure needs (2020)
- Frequent Speaker on a wide variety of topics:
 - Farm Bill policies
 - Sustainable agriculture policy
 - Beginning farmers and ranchers
 - Agricultural data
 - Artificial Intelligence in agriculture
 - Health and nutrition policy
 - Farmers comprehensive personal liability insurance
 - Crop insurance
 - Environmental laws impacting agricultural producers
 - Food safety
 - Landowner liabilities
 - Land use
 - Conservation and natural resources law
 - Entrepreneurship and rural economic development
 - Marketing and cooperative development
 - Corporate farming trends
 - Indigenous rights to land and water & native agriculture; food sovereignty; Tribal jurisdiction regarding agricultural production systems
 - Aquaculture legal issues
 - Equine legal issues
 - Nuisance, right to farm and farmland preservation
 - Animal health, plant and animal disease, animal identification and country of origin labeling
 - Forestry law
 - Food processing
 - Marketing and labeling of food and agriculture products
 - HACCP
 - Water law and water rights
 - Rural/urban interface
 - Women and agriculture; beginning farmers and ranchers; socially disadvantaged producers; underserved producers

- Regulation of agriculture
- Mediation and conflict resolution
- Examples of presentations can be provided upon request

Administrative Law Judge/Hearing officer Experience

- Cherokee Nation Employee Appeals Board, Hearing Officer (on contract), Tahlequah OK (1996-2003)
- Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, Supervisor of the Division of Hearings and Appeals (1991-1992)