

Stephen Carpenter

Stephen is the Deputy Director of and Senior Staff Attorney at Farmers' Legal Action Group, Inc. (FLAG), a national non-profit law firm that represents low-income family farmers in their efforts to stay on the land. Stephen served as Senior Counsel in the Office of the Monitor in *Pigford* (the African-American farmers' national class action race discrimination case), and currently serves as the court-appointed Ombudsman for the *In re Black Farmers Discrimination* case (both venued in the federal district court of the District of Columbia).

Stephen is a nationally recognized and nationally acclaimed expert in legal issues that affect family farmers. He speaks nationally, in local gatherings in barns and community centers, and in national legal conferences. He has presented training sessions in more than 30 states to equip farmers, advocates, attorneys, judges, and policymakers to enforce and advance farmers' rights.

He has authored and edited many key resources in farm law. His law review articles include:

- "Family Farm Advocacy and Rebellious Lawyering," *New York University School of Law Clinical Law Review* (2017),
- "A New Higher Calling for Agricultural Law," *Drake Journal of Agricultural Law* (2013),
- "The USDA Discrimination Cases: Pigford, Keepseagle, In re Black Farmers, Garcia, and Love," *Drake Journal of Agricultural Law* (2012),
- "Family Farmers in Poverty: A Guide to Agricultural Law for Legal Services Practitioners," *Clearinghouse Review* (1996) (with Randi Ilyse Roth),
- "Farm Chemicals, Soil Erosion, and Sustainable Agriculture," *Stanford Environmental Law Journal* (1994).

Stephen has served on several academic advisory committees and was an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota Law School.

Stephen is a graduate of Drury College in Springfield, Missouri, and of Stanford Law School. At Stanford Law School, Stephen was active in the East Palo Alto Community Law Project, was a Stanford Law Review executive editor, and received a Skadden Foundation Fellowship that brought him to FLAG in 1993.

At FLAG, Stephen's work has centered on discrimination in agricultural lending, debtor-creditor issues, disaster assistance, federal farm programs, sustainable agriculture and direct marketing, and the problems of farmers contracting for livestock production. Most recently, he is focused on farmers' rights related to COVID.