

Varnum LLP Food Law Practice

Adding Value to Michigan's
Food Processing Industry



Who Are We?

- Full service law firm with more than 150 attorneys in five locations across Michigan: Metro Detroit, Grand Rapids, Grand Haven, Lansing, Kalamazoo
- Varnum's Food Law practice
 - Co-chaired by Steve Kluting and Matt Eugster
 - We recognized the industry's importance in the state's economy and that the food processing industry has been often times underserved. So, we proactively:
 - developed expertise specific to the food processing industry;
 - made connections in the industry;
 - built a multi-disciplinary team to serve the particular needs of Michigan's food businesses

Varnum's Food Law Practice

- The practice includes more than a dozen attorneys experienced in:
 - Food Law
 - Agricultural Law
 - Corporate/Commercial Law
 - Immigration Law
 - Litigation Law
 - Cooperative Law
 - Energy/Alternative Energy Law
 - Environmental Law
 - Labor & Employment Law
 - Administrative Law

Food Law Practice

- Monthly Food Processors Lunch & Learns
 - Hosted by Varnum in partnership with The Right Place
 - Started in the fall of 2009
 - Each month draws 30-60 food processors, government representatives and industry-focused service providers
 - Features speaker(s) on food industry-related topics, including:
 - *Ten Safety Violations in the Food Industry* presented by Micshall Patrick, MIOSHA and Richard Symons, Varnum
 - *Legislative and Regulatory Changes: Food Safety Modernization Act*, presented by Steve Kluting, Matt Eugster, Varnum LLP
 - *State and Regional Food Processing Initiatives: Advancing the Industry's Growth*, presented by Mike DiBernardo, MDARD and Rick Chapla, The Right Place.
 - *Food Issues and the Media: Effectively Communicating with the Media During a Crisis*, presented by John Zimmerman, Former Meijer Public Relations Director, Seyferth PR



Food Law Activities

- Sponsored and hosted post-event happy hour at the Michigan Food Processing Summit
- Partnership with MMTC to provide HACCP (food safety) training
- Various speaking engagements to update the food processing industry on current legal issues
- Association involvement, sponsorships and presentations:
 - Van Andel Global Trade Center
 - Michigan Food Processing Association
 - Michigan Agri-Business Association
 - Ground Water Discharge Permit Working Group
 - Michigan Food & Agriculture Protection and Defense Working Group

Food Law Activities

- Partnership with MSU Product Center
 - Sponsorship of the *Making it in Michigan* conference and food show, including hosting two workshops
 - Varnum's MiSpringboard program partner



Energy for Agri-Business

Varnum's Food, Agriculture, and Energy practice groups are working together to:

- Assist food processors and agri-business in developing bio-energy and bio-fuel projects; and
- Develop and implement equitable energy policy for food processors and agri-business

What's Next?

- Continue to be a valuable part of the state-wide network to retain, attract and grow Michigan food businesses
- Promote policies beneficial to the industry
- Continue to develop a network of industry-focused organizations (e.g. insurance, environmental and food safety consultants, import/export consultants, accounting counselors, logistics providers, contractors and bankers)
- Provide increased training opportunities
- Continue to support the industry state-wide through involvement, sponsorships and events