

# JONATHAN W. COPPES

*Curriculum Vitae*

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, DEPT. OF AGRICULTURAL AND CONSUMER ECONOMICS** · *Urbana, IL*  
*Clinical Assistant Professor of Law and Policy* · September 2013 to Present

- Responsible for research, outreach and education on agricultural law and policy matters, including farm support policy, risk management, conservation and renewable energy. Responsibilities include classroom instruction, meetings with and presentations to producers and agribusinesses, as well as written communications through the *farmdoc* and *farmdoc Daily* internet platforms.

**U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY** · *Washington, D.C.*  
*Chief Counsel* · 2011 through September, 2013

- Responsible for development of comprehensive agricultural policy focused on substantial reforms that achieved reductions in federal spending; participated in extensive staff and Member-level negotiations; consulted with the United States Department of Agriculture, including the Office of General Counsel; involved in extensive consultations and negotiations with various interest groups, non-governmental organizations, lobbyists and companies; drafted omnibus authorizing legislation and accompanying Committee Report consisting of detailed justification for the legislation, section-by-section analysis and implementing instructions.
- Assisted Committee Chair in managing omnibus authorizing legislation through the Senate legislative process, including thirteen Committee hearings on various agricultural policy matters that required research, discussions with and vetting of witnesses, and extensive preparation, two business meetings of the Committee to mark up draft legislative text, each resulting in a super majority of the Committee agreeing to report the bill to the full Senate, and extensive amendment and debate on the Senate floor resulting in bipartisan super-majorities of the Senate twice agreeing to the passage of the legislation.
- Primary policy achievements include market-oriented revenue and price commodity assistance programs, a consolidated conservation easement program; a regional conservation partnership program, complex provisions that link eligibility for crop insurance premium assistance to compliance with conservation provisions regarding highly erodible lands and wetlands, significant revisions of farm credit and rural development programs; innovative agricultural research policies, renewable energy and biofuel programs, and significant revisions to the policies and operational aspects of the Federal Crop Insurance program.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FARM SERVICE AGENCY** · *Washington, D.C.*  
*Administrator and Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs* · 2009 through 2011

- Presidential appointment, Senior Executive Service; managed federal agency with more than 14,000 employees located in over 2,200 offices throughout the nation with an operational budget of over \$1 billion each fiscal year, nearly \$5 billion in federal farm lending and over \$5 billion in mandatory federal funds for farm support programs, as well as millions of dollars for the procurement of bulk commodities for school food programs, food assistance programs for domestic and international food aid programs.
- Supervised implementation of complex agricultural support programs created by the 2008 farm bill, such as supplemental disaster assistance, revenue-based commodity assistance and innovative biomass crop production assistance; oversaw drafting of regulations and navigated them through the federal regulatory process; led effort to modernize and upgrade outdated information technology infrastructure in a challenging budgetary environment.
- Testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture and Subcommittee on Agricultural Appropriations multiple times; advised the Secretary of Agriculture and the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Service on agency matters and policies within the purview of the agency, including preparing them for testimony before the U.S. Senate and House Committees; delivered numerous speeches and presentations to agency offices, field offices and to constituent groups, farmers, and agribusinesses on matters of Agency operation, IT modernization, civil rights challenges, program operation, implementation and administration, and various initiatives and programs undertaken by the Agency and the Department.

**U. S. SENATOR BEN NELSON** · *Washington, D.C.*  
*Legislative Assistant* · 2006 through 2009

- Assisted Senator on development of the 2008 farm bill, with focus on policies for a revenue-based commodity support program, crop insurance, ground and surface water conservation, rural microentrepreneur assistance, agricultural research and assistance to farmers for the production of biomass crops for use in biofuels and renewable energy; conducted policy-based research; drafted policy memoranda, speeches and discussion points; staffed Senator in meetings and conducted meetings with constituents, other Members of Congress and at Committee hearings, meetings and the mark up of the legislation.
- Lead policy advisor to Senator on various issues and legislation including annual agricultural appropriations bills with significant work on behalf of major land grant university, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 with specific work on the Renewable Fuels Standard and related policy matters, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, comprehensive immigration reform legislation and matters of agricultural trade, including meetings with foreign ambassadors regarding difficult trade matters such as the closing of foreign markets due to sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues.

**THIRD-WAY** · *Washington, D.C.*

*Agriculture and Rural Development Fellow* · 2005 through 2006

- Temporary policy fellowship; conducted extensive research on farm and rural economic policy matters; drafted memoranda and assisted with production of policy papers and messaging documents.

**CNA SURETY** · *Chicago, Illinois*  
*Surety Claims Counsel* · 2004 through 2005

- Responsible for managing bond claims through legal investigative process; conducted legal research; drafted memoranda detailing research and investigative findings; document management; provided legal advice on handling surety bond claims.

**FREEBORN & PETERS LLP** · *Chicago, Illinois*  
*Associate* · 2001 through 2004

- Participated in case development and litigation for a range of commercial legal matters regarding contract disputes, bankruptcy, intellectual property, real estate and commercial property; conducted extensive legal research; drafted memoranda, court-filed legal briefs and supporting documents; conducted basic document review and management; appeared before state and federal judges on routine litigation matters; prepared for and conducted depositions; attended meetings and worked with multiple commercial clients.

## **EDUCATION**

**THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL** · *Washington, D.C.*  
*Juris Doctor, with Honors*, 2001

- Member of *The George Washington Law Review*

**MIAMI UNIVERSITY** · *Oxford, Ohio*  
*Bachelor's of Science, Richard T. Farmer School of Business Administration*, 1996

- Achieved Dean's List in four consecutive semesters

## **BAR ADMISSIONS**

State of Illinois · 2001 (Inactive)

District of Columbia · 2005