FOOD BIOTECHNOLOGY: A LEGAL PERSPECTIVE


Volume X, Issue 2

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MASTHEAD

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Dear Readers:

On behalf of the 2003-2004 Editorial Board, I would like to welcome you to the second issue of the Richmond Journal of Law & Technology’s 2003-2004 publication term! This issue is dedicated to the Journal’s 2002-2003 Biennial Symposium – Food Biotechnology: A Legal Perspective. The symposium, which took place at the University of Richmond School of Law on March 14, 2003, included seventeen participants from across the country and focused on the potential legal implications from the introduction of genetically modified food products (“GM Foods”) into the domestic and international food markets.

Our coverage of the symposium begins with two introductory speeches provided by author Kathleen Hart and University of Delaware professor Dallas Hoover. These speeches, which cover an overview of GM Foods and on food safety, will help you, our readers, understand the legal positions taken by our other panelists throughout the symposium.

Our first panel addresses the regulation of genetically modified foods in the United States, and panelists include Mr. Greg Jaffe of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, Dr. L. Val Giddings of BIO, and Mr. David Hegwood, counsel to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Our second panel focuses on a specific regulatory issue: whether GM Foods should be labeled as “containing genetically modified food products.” The panel consists of three specialists on labeling requirements: Ms. Jean Halloran of the Consumer Policy Institute, Mr. Gregory Conko of the Competitive Enterprise Institute and Professor Jonathan Adler of the Case Western Reserve University School of Law. Mr. Conko and Ms. Halloran address the consumer-policy issues concerning food labeling, and Prof. Adler looks at whether such a labeling requirement would be constitutional.

The third panel in our program addresses the international regulation of GM Foods and includes speakers Mr. Tony Van der haegen, Minister-Counselor for Agriculture, Fisheries and Consumer Affairs; Delegation of the European Commission to the United States, Ms. Jean Halloran of the Consumer Policy Institute, Mr. Mark Mansour, an attorney with Keller and Heckman LLP in Washington, D.C., and Mr. Tom Sleight of the Virginia Dept. of Agriculture. Our final panel deals with potential liability issues and contains speeches by University of Oklahoma Law School professor Drew Kershen, University of Illinois professor Don Uchtmann, and Ms. Rachel Lattimore, an attorney at ArentFox in Washington, D.C.

I am also pleased to announce that our publication has decided to publish solely in Adobe Acrobat .pdf format. This format offers our Journal numerous advantages, and we hope you, as our readers, will enjoy this change. If you are unfamiliar with Acrobat, we invite you to download the Acrobat Reader free of charge at http://www.adobe.com. Thank you for visiting the Richmond Journal of Law & Technology. As always, we welcome your comments, suggestions, submissions and general feedback at jolt@richmond.edu. Thank you for your readership and your continued support of our publication.

Edwin E. Wallis III
Editor-in-Chief
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