

ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS



Richard Ary Cook, Cook Law Firm

Richard Ary Cook has a general practice in the areas of estate planning and probate, real estate, agribusiness, taxation, and civil litigation. He practices in his family law firm of Herrick, Ary, Cook, Cook & Cook with his brothers John Cook, Jr. and William Cook, and nephew Jason Cook. He represents clients in Northwest Iowa and advises on a variety of issues, including planning for agricultural estate, taxation, and commercial transactions.

Rich was born in 1958 in Cherokee, Iowa, graduated from Iowa State University in 1980, and from Drake Law School in 1983. He then joined the family firm, which at the time included his father, John H. Cook, who died in 1996. Rich is married to Andrea Cook and they have two daughters. He has served on the board of the Cherokee State Bank since 1997, and is president of Ecumenical Institute, a local charitable entity that provides training to pastoral caregivers.

Bill Hanigan, Davis Brown Law Firm

Bill Hanigan is a shareholder of the Davis Brown Law Firm with a general practice in, but not limited to, the areas of business organizations and transactions, agribusiness and cooperatives, renewable fuels, debt restructuring, corporate reorganization, mergers and acquisitions, finance and securities. Bill's practice also includes business litigation and arbitration representing clients in state and federal courts and in arbitration proceedings. He represents clients in Iowa and across the Midwest and advises on business development, financing, eminent domain, regulation and related reporting issues.

Verdell Johnson, plaintiff

Verdell Johnson was born in 1936 and grew up on a farm north of Marcus, Cherokee county, Iowa. He attended South Dakota State College (now South Dakota State University) and, following brief military service, returned to Cherokee county where his family has been active in grain and livestock farming since 1960.

He and his wife Marian were married in 1959 and have three children. In late 2010/early 2011, Marian was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and now lives in a residential care facility. Verdell was a long time member of the Cherokee County Farm Bureau Board, over the years has served on various agricultural boards and committees, and currently serves on the board of directors of Little Sioux Corn Processors, LLC, a Cherokee county ethanol producer.

Dick and Judy Lamb, plaintiffs

Dick and Judy Lamb both grew up in Boone, Iowa, and married in 1972. They have lived in Iowa City since 1977 and have three adult children and four grandchildren. Judy is a retired RN, Dick is a retired educational psychologist, and both are Vietnam veterans.

The couple owns a 300-acre Boone county farm, two miles west of Ames, on both sides of U.S. Highway 30. Dick's grandfather purchased the farmland in the 1870's. The proposed Bakken pipeline would cross Highway 30 where their farm is located. Both want to keep their family farm intact and would never willingly sell their land at any price.

Keith Puntteney, Private Property Rights Fund

Keith Puntteney is an Iowa farmer, attorney, and one of the affected landowners along the proposed pipeline route. His family has been farming in Boone and Webster counties since the 1960's; Keith took over the land from his father in the 1970's and has made major investments in tile, the removal of outdated buildings and fences, and the addition of a modern grain storage and drying facility.

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About the Private Property Rights Coalition

The Private Property Rights Coalition (PPRC) is a non-profit 501(b) association formed to protect Iowa farmland and private property rights from the proposed use of eminent domain by the Dakota Access Pipeline. The Private Property Rights Fund (PPRF) collects funds from members (people with property along the pipeline) and donations from the public for the purpose of funding the litigation against Dakota Access. Keith Puntenney serves as president and John Murray as the secretary-treasurer. Those interested in joining the PPRC or donating to the PPRF may contact Keith at ksmpunt@hotmail.com, 515-230-1001 or John at jmurray@iw.net, 712-732-8181.

About Cook Law Firm

The Cook Law Firm has been in continuous operation since 1869 and has offices in Cherokee and Holstein, Iowa. The firm practices primarily in the areas of estate planning and probate, civil litigation, income tax, banking and commercial law, real estate, and general practice matters, regularly assisting clients with agricultural issues.

About Davis Brown Law Firm

Founded in 1929, Davis, Brown, Koehn, Shors & Roberts, P.C., provides comprehensive legal representation to a diverse client base. Firm clients include private individuals as well as Fortune 500 corporations. With 80 attorneys, the firm offers depth and experience in a wide variety of areas, such as corporate transactions, corporate governance, entity choice, litigation, banking and finance, taxation, workers' compensation, insurance defense, real estate, immigration, employment, finance, biotechnology, securities, patent and intellectual property, and government relations.

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