

Randi Ilyse Roth

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Education

Northwestern University School of Law, 1984, J.D., *cum laude*

Extensive participation in legal clinic, 1982-1984

Recipient of Mansfield Fellowship, summer 1983

Yale University, 1979, B.A., *magna cum laude*

Honors in political science

Legal Experience

Independent Court-Appointed Monitor, *Pigford v. Johanns* (D.D.C.) and
Brewington v. Johanns (D.D.C.)

In January 2000, appointed by Judge Paul L. Friedman to be the Independent Monitor in *Pigford v. Johanns*, a class action, civil rights lawsuit brought by African-American farmers against the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The class includes approximately 22,000 African-American farmers. The Consent Decree provides that successful claimants are entitled to monetary and injunctive relief. The Monitor's job includes issuing written decisions in response to approximately 5,500 petitions for Monitor review, staffing a toll-free line that claimants and the public can call to express concerns about the case, attempting to resolve thousands of class members' individual concerns, reporting to the court and to the Secretary of Agriculture on the implementation of the Decree, and more. The total monetary value of relief (cash, debt forgiveness, and tax relief) distributed to successful claimants is currently more than \$870 million and is expected to reach roughly \$1 billion dollars before the case concludes. Details about the case and up-to-date statistics can be found at www.pigfordmonitor.org. The *Pigford* Monitor appointment is scheduled to conclude by the spring of 2007.

Farmers' Legal Action Group, Inc., St. Paul, Minnesota

Executive Director, 1994 to 2003

Staff Attorney, 1986 to 1993

Performed full range of management functions for nonprofit law firm.

Provided legal education, training, and support to small family farmers and their advocates and attorneys. Engaged in class action impact litigation to advance farmers' rights.

Activities included speaking at training events for farmers, advocates, and attorneys throughout the United States; designing, researching, and writing extensive articles, books, and training materials; testifying before state and federal legislative bodies; providing backup support to attorneys and legal assistants throughout the country; and working as part of a litigation team that handles class action impact litigation.

Publications included *Farmers' Guide to FmHA* (four editions), *Farm Survival Handbook* (and accompanying video), and *Farmers' Guide to FDIC*. These books explain farmers' rights in lay terms. More than 50,000 copies of *Farmers' Guide to FmHA* have been distributed throughout the country.

Academic publications included “Family Farmers in Poverty: A Guide to Agricultural Law for Legal Services Practitioners,” *Clearinghouse Review*, April 1996 (co-authored with Stephen Carpenter); and “Redressing Unfairness in the New Agricultural Arrangements: An Overview of Litigation Seeking Remedies for Contract Poultry Growers,” 25 U. Memphis L. Rev. 1207 (1995).

William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1990 to 1995
Adjunct Professor of Agricultural Law

Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, May 1984 to July 1986
Represented clients in a diverse range of civil matters, including individual cases and class action impact litigation; specialized in issues pertaining to low-income housing. Activities included client interviewing and counseling; legal research; writing pleadings, briefs, and correspondence; negotiating; and representing clients in bench and jury trials and at administrative hearings.

Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Summer 1983
Worked as a Mansfield Fellow representing clients in welfare and housing cases in neighborhood legal aid office. Wrote first edition of *Farmers' Guide to FmHA*.

Northwestern University Legal Clinic, Chicago, Illinois, Fall 1982 to Spring 1984
Summer 1982: As a law clerk, assisted director of clinic with diverse criminal and civil case load. *From 1982 to 1984 (part-time during school years)*: Assisted director of legal clinic in legal research for publication of case book on juvenile law and in administration of clinic trial practice program.