

Urban Agriculture & Food Access in Delaware

By: Anas Mahmoud

The Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic and student attorneys Genna Cicchetti and Anas Mahmoud took on numerous food law matters during the Spring semester. They kicked off the semester by working with Delaware Council on Farm and Food Policy who has been charged with the creation of a food access strategy. The students researched the current state of food security in Delaware and how other States have formulated and implemented food access strategies. On June 1, 2025, the Council presented to Governor Meyer the [Farm to Family Strategy: An Integrated Systems Approach to Improve Food Access in Delaware](#).

According to Nikko Brady, Deputy Chief of Staff for Climate, Food Systems, and Planning for the Office of the Governor, “Collaborating with students from the Clinic was a value added to the [Delaware Council on Farm and Food Policy](#). As the Council developed the State’s first food access strategy, Clinic students were integral in informing this work. Students delivered their final work product, a comparative analysis of strategies and plans from jurisdictions in the region and across the country. This initial phase of the strategy development is an example of how structured research helps to enrich a collaborative process and fosters creative thinking. The Council will continue to engage with the Clinic because the students are attentive in presenting materials, responsive to feedback, and adaptive to accommodate preferences or address concerns. The opportunity for students to work on practical projects is vital experience and the Clinic prepares students to play a role in shaping real policy initiatives in Delaware.”

The student attorneys also represented the Delaware Urban Farm and Food Coalition and assisted the Coalition with their ongoing mission to have urban agriculture added as a permitted zoning use in the City of Wilmington. On May 8, Mahmoud presented to Elliott Larkin, Director of Planning for Wilmington, and other city officials and made a strong case for all of the positive impacts that urban agriculture could bring to Wilmington including, but not limited to: economic opportunities, reuse of vacant lots and underutilized spaces, reducing food insecurity and improving overall public health.