



One Health Commission
World Health Through Collaboration

Doug O'Brien
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Doug O'Brien, J.D., is a Senior Advisor to Secretary Vilsack and the United States Department of Agriculture. He works on a variety of issues, which include serving as the Department's lead policy advisor on the 2009 H1N1 pandemic as well as rural development and competition policy.

O'Brien most recently served as the Assistant Director at the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In this capacity, he assisted the director in the administering the day-to-day operations of that department in such areas as plant industries, animal health, and its laboratories. In addition, he was responsible for developing the department's biofuels, bioproducts, and renewable energy policy efforts. He also served as the chairperson for the Ohio Agriculture to Chemicals, Polymers, and Advanced Materials Task Force, a body created by the state legislature and Governor Ted Strickland.

O'Brien, who was raised on a diversified farm in Iowa, has dedicated his career to agriculture, specifically agricultural law. Most recently, O'Brien served as senior advisor to Governor Chet Culver of Iowa on renewable energy issues. O'Brien has served as interim co-director for the National Agricultural Law Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and senior staff attorney at the Drake Agricultural Law Center in Des Moines, Iowa. He also taught agricultural law at the University of Arkansas and at Drake University.

He is former counsel for the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, where he worked on the 2002 Farm Bill, livestock marketing, concentration, agricultural credit, and cooperative issues. Prior to that, he served as the first Legal Specialist in the USDA Grain, Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration's National Hog Office in Des Moines where he focused on livestock marketing issues. He also served as Legislative Assistant for Congressman Leonard Boswell, focusing primarily on the congressman's work on the House Agriculture Committee, and as a clerk for Justice Jerry Larson of the Iowa Supreme Court.

O'Brien graduated Maxima Cum Laude from Loras College and earned a Juris Doctorate with honors from the University of Iowa. In addition, he holds a Master's Degree in Agricultural Law from the University of Arkansas.