



For Immediate Release

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PAPER ASSESSES CURRENT, FUTURE CHALLENGES IN INTERNATIONAL FOOD REGULATION

The prospects for a new era of global health and safety regulation have never been more certain than at the beginning of 2009. Food safety scares involving such staples as milk and peanut butter, as well as the emergence of new technologies, will compel governments to act, and challenge industries to reevaluate their compliance efforts. In a new Washington Legal Foundation (WLF) publication, food and drug regulation specialist Mark Mansour surveys the regulatory landscape and urges all parties involved to work together towards a better integrated system of health and safety controls.

Mr. Mansour authored the CONTEMPORARY LEGAL NOTE, **On the 2009 Agenda: Global Regulation of Food Products and Producers**, *pro bono* for WLF's Legal Studies Division. He heads the Food and Drug Administration practice at the law firm Bryan Cave LLP in its Washington, D.C. office.

The paper devotes distinct sections to four key issues attracting regulators' and legislators' attention internationally. With global consumption of **dietary supplements** increasing, officials in the European and Asian markets pursue harmonization of requirements, while the U.S. focuses on stricter enforcement of current regulations. In the area of **cloning and transgenic crops**, Mr. Mansour notes that despite U.S. and European Union officials' determination that food from cloned animals are generally safe, negative consumer reaction has largely prevented industry from deploying the technology. The section on **food labeling** devotes significant attention to health claims, nutrition, country-of-origin, and allergen labeling. On **safety**, Mr. Mansour discusses the fallout in the U.S. from the tainted milk developments in China, as well as General Accountability Office criticism of the Food and Drug Administration's failure to fully address fresh produce safety.

The CONTEMPORARY LEGAL NOTE also includes a section on legislative proposals on food regulation, featuring a useful chart tracking the various bills that were introduced in the 110th Congress, and are likely to resurface in the current Congress.

Copies of this educational paper, WLF CONTEMPORARY LEGAL NOTE Number 62 (January 2009), can be obtained by forwarding a request to: Publications Department, Washington Legal Foundation, 2009 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, or calling (202) 588-0302.