



For Immediate Release
NR 21-08 (3-31-21)

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FCA hires Clark Ogilvie as new general counsel following retirement of Charlie Rawls

McLEAN, Va., March 31, 2021 — The Farm Credit Administration has selected Clark Ogilvie to serve as its new general counsel. Its current general counsel, Charlie Rawls, retires today. Mr. Ogilvie's first day on the job is April 11, and Joy Strickland, currently FCA's acting deputy general counsel, will serve as acting general counsel until then.

Mr. Ogilvie currently serves as special counsel in the Legal Division at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) in Washington, D.C. He first joined the CFTC in 2014 where he served for almost three years as chief of staff to then-Chairman Tim Massad.

From 2005 until 2014, Mr. Ogilvie was on the staff of the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture, where he worked on the Dodd-Frank Act; the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; and the Agricultural Act of 2014. He briefly returned to the House Agriculture Committee in 2018, providing legal counsel for the 2018 Farm Bill regarding federal commodity programs, crop insurance, farm credit, rural development, forestry, and energy.

Before joining the staff of the House Agriculture Committee, he was a legislative assistant to Congressman Bob Etheridge of North Carolina for five years. Mr. Ogilvie has a law degree from George Washington University and a B.A. from Rhodes College. He is an associate member of the Virginia State Bar.

Mr. Ogilvie succeeds Charlie Rawls, who has been the agency's general counsel for the past 18 years, which is believed to be the longest tenure of any general counsel in the agency's history. Mr. Rawls has been an employee of the federal government for 38 years and has served in each of the three branches of the U.S. government.

Mr. Rawls worked briefly in the judicial branch as a law clerk, then moved to the legislative branch where he began as staff director for the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Forests, Family Farms, and Energy. Later, as deputy general counsel on the full House Agriculture Committee, he worked extensively on the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, the landmark legislation that helped the Farm Credit System recover from the credit crisis of the 1980s.

Mr. Rawls moved to the executive branch of government in 1993 when he took a job as chief of staff to the deputy secretary of USDA. He went on to become deputy general counsel, and in 1998, he was confirmed by the Senate as general counsel of USDA. He later returned to the legislative branch to serve as general counsel to the Senate Committee on

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, where he worked on the Farm Bill of 2002. He came to FCA in 2003.

“Charlie’s legal counsel and leadership over the past 18 years has been exemplary,” says FCA Board Chairman Glen Smith. “We have benefitted greatly not only from his legal expertise but also from his experience on the Hill. We will miss him professionally and personally but look forward to working with Clark, whose experience makes him an ideal successor.”

“I’ve had the privilege of working closely with Charlie for the past six years,” says FCA Board Member Jeff Hall. “He has the unusual ability to work with people with very different perspectives to find solutions that work for everyone. The agency has benefitted tremendously from his service. I also have full confidence in Clark’s ability to provide the leadership we need in the years to come.”

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The Farm Credit Administration is the safety and soundness regulator of the Farm Credit System. The System consists of two government-sponsored enterprises — a nationwide network of cooperative banks and associations established in 1916, and a secondary market entity known as the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac), which was established in 1988. The System’s borrower-owned banks and associations provide credit to farmers, ranchers, residents of rural communities, agricultural and rural utility cooperatives, and other eligible and creditworthy borrowers. Farmer Mac provides a secondary market for agricultural real estate loans, rural housing mortgage loans, and certain rural utility loans. FCA news releases are available on the web at www.fca.gov.