


Steven Mandernach, JD

Executive Director
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Professional Summary

Senior public health and food safety leader with over two decades of experience advancing integrated food protection systems at the state, national, and federal levels. Proven executive leadership in regulatory program development, outbreak response, training innovation, and intergovernmental collaboration. Licensed attorney with deep expertise in food law, regulatory policy, and governance.

Current Position

Executive Director
Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) | 2018–Present

Education

Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD), Drake University, 2000
Bachelor of Arts (BA), Buena Vista University, 1997 – Mass Communication & Political Science
Food Safety Certificate, Michigan State University, 2018

Licensure

Licensed to Practice Law, Iowa Supreme Court (2001)

Professional Work History

1. Executive Director, Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) (2018–Present) – York, PA
2. Acting Associate General Counsel, Office of the Governor of Iowa (2010–2011) – Des Moines, IA
3. Bureau Chief, Food and Consumer Safety, Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (2010–2018) – Des Moines, IA
4. Legislative Liaison & Administrative Rules Coordinator, Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (2007–2010) – Des Moines, IA
5. Election Reform Coordinator, Office of the Iowa Secretary of State (2003–2007) – Des Moines, IA

Publications List

1. Rigdon C, Copeland DE, Mandernach S. From Corporate to Corner Store: Retail Food Safety Practices in Small Businesses. *Food Safety Magazine*. 2025.
2. Arendt SW, Xu Y, Miklos MS, Nutt EA, Mandernach S. Assessing Employee Health Policies and Practices in Foodservice Establishments. *Food Protection Trends*. 2024.
3. Mandernach S. The Importance of Food Safety Business Leader to Regulatory Authority's Mission. In: *Food Safety Leadership in the Business of Food Safety*. BNP Media; 2023.
4. Mandernach S, Nutt E, Miklos M, Arendt SW, Xu Y. Current States of Food Safety Culture and FSMs. *Food Safety Magazine*. 2023.
5. Groening BJ, Whitham HK, Aldous WK, Hall N, Garvey A, Mandernach S, et al. Public Health Response to Multistate Salmonella Typhimurium Outbreak Associated with Prepackaged Chicken Salad. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. 2018.
6. Pierquet J, Arendt SW, Rahman S, Hall N, Mandernach S, Reed V, et al. *Listeria monocytogenes* Occurrence and Adherence to Recommendations. *Food Protection Trends*. 2020.
7. Treadwell RJ, Irving D, Nicholas DC, Mandernach S. Unsung Heroes: State and Local Public Health Officials Innovating in Outbreak Investigations. *Food Safety Magazine*. 2019.
8. Corby J, Mandernach S, Morris B, Williams S, Coleman T. Responding to Harvey and Irma: Rapid Response Teams Take Action. *Food Safety Magazine*. 2018.
9. Corby J, Mandernach S. Building an Integrated Food Safety System One Brick at a Time. *Food Safety Magazine*. 2017.
10. Corby J, Ades G, Farrar J, Cassens B, Kennelly P, Mandernach S, et al. Integrating the Nation's Food Safety System: What You Need to Know. *Food Safety Magazine*. 2016.
11. Mandernach S, Sowards D, Veneziano V. *Regulatory Foundations for the Food Protection Professional*. Springer; 2015.
12. Buss BF, Joshi MV, O'Keefe AL, Allensworth CD, Garvey A, Obbink K, Mandernach S, Safranek TJ. Regional investigation of a cyclosporiasis outbreak linked to imported romaine lettuce. *Epidemiology & Infection*. 2016.
13. Arendt S, Rajagopal L, Strohbahn C, Stokes N, Meyer J, Mandernach S. Reporting of foodborne illness by U.S. consumers and healthcare professionals. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2013.