

Tips for Finding an Attorney

By

Farmers Legal Action Group Attorneys

- Look for an attorney licensed in your state who practices in the estate planning area or has worked with long-term leases.
- Look for an attorney who is also familiar with sustainable agriculture—someone who frequently represents farmers.
- In a best-case scenario, your attorney will: (1) have experience with estate planning and/or long-term leases; (2) regularly represent farmers; and (3) be familiar with sustainable farming practices. At the very least, however, your attorney should either have estate planning/lease law experience or regularly represent sustainable farmers.
- Hire an attorney you feel comfortable with, and do not hesitate to shop around to find the best fit and value. An experienced attorney familiar with agriculture will likely spend fewer hours on your case (and thus, cost less) than an attorney without estate planning, lease, or agriculture experience.
- You can also ask about negotiating a flat rate or hours cap for the attorney's services instead of paying an hourly rate. Flat fees or hours caps can lower the cost of both experienced and less-experienced attorneys.
- If your attorney is not responsive to your needs, frequently fails to return calls, or makes you feel uncomfortable, find a different attorney. You can fire an attorney at any time.
- If you are looking for attorney referrals, contact FLAG or your state or local bar association. FLAG maintains a database of attorneys who have expressed interest in representing family farmers.
- Ask other farmers or ag professionals you know- financial planners, CPAs etc. for references

** You can reach FLAG by phone at 651-223-5400, or by email at lawyers@flaginc.org.

Minnesota farmers can call FLAG's toll-free line (877-860-4349).