



FARMERS' LEGAL
ACTION GROUP,
INCORPORATED

360 North Robert Street Suite 500
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Phone: 651-223-5400
Fax: 651-223-5335

Internet:
lawyers@flaginc.org

Web site:
www.flaginc.org

News Release

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Contacts: Susan E. Stokes, Executive Director, Farmers' Legal Action Group, Inc.
sstokes@flaginc.org (651-223-5400)

FLAG Announces New Staff Attorneys

ST. PAUL, MINN. — Farmers' Legal Action Group, Inc. (FLAG) announces that Hli Lee Xyooj and Amanda Noonan Heyman are FLAG's newest staff attorneys. FLAG, a 25-year-old nonprofit law center based in St. Paul, Minnesota, is dedicated to providing legal services and support to family farmers and their communities in order to help keep family farmers on the land.

Hli Xyooj joined FLAG in 2006 as its Hmong Community Outreach Coordinator and became a Staff Attorney last year. Ms. Xyooj leads FLAG's work providing legal services to the Hmong farming community and works with Hmong American farmers in all aspects of their farm operations.

Ms. Xyooj earned her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1999, with majors in International Relations, Political Science, and Asian Studies with a concentration in Southeast Asia. She graduated from Hamline University School of Law with a J.D. degree in 2007 (where she also obtained her Certificate in Dispute Resolution from the Dispute Resolution Institute) and completed her M.B.A. degree from Hamline University School of Business in 2008. Hli was born in Thailand but raised in Minnesota.

Amanda Noonan Heyman joined FLAG as a staff attorney in January 2011. Prior to joining FLAG, she served as a judicial law clerk for U.S. Magistrate Judge Franklin L. Noel and U.S. District Judge Ann D. Montgomery in the District of Minnesota. During her clerkships, Ms. Heyman worked on a wide variety of cases, including contract disputes, civil rights litigation, administrative appeals, and First Amendment claims. In addition, she has significant experience in the legal services setting, including advocacy on behalf of Hurricane Katrina survivors on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Ms. Heyman earned her law degree from the University of Michigan Law School in 2008, where she was a Clarence Darrow Merit Scholar, an editor of the University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform, and co-chair of the Environmental Law Society Board. In 2003, she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism and a certificate in Environmental Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Before embarking on her legal career, Amanda won several awards for her work as a newspaper reporter in Wisconsin and New Mexico.

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