

Mich. Firm Warner Norcross Adds Trusts And Estates Partner

By **Adrian Cruz**

Law360 (May 25, 2022, 4:17 PM EDT) -- Warner Norcross & Judd LLP announced this week that it hired a trusts and estates attorney who specializes in working with farm owners as a partner in its Midland, Michigan, office.

Danelle E. Harrington joined Warner Norcross' business and corporate services and trusts and estates practice groups at the end of April, following eight years with Smith Bovill PC. She told Law360 on Wednesday that she chose to join the firm because of its teamwork-heavy approach and focus on delivering excellent client service.



Danelle E. Harrington

"My joining Warner is a benefit to my clients because they will have a wealth of professionals at their disposal," she said. "If there is something they need where I am not an expert, I can almost guarantee there will be someone at Warner who is an expert in that area and can be of assistance to them. With the additional resources Warner has, I believe the clients will receive even better client service."

Harrington, who graduated from Valparaiso University Law School, splits her practice between trust and estate work and business transactional work, dealing with matters such as estate planning, probate and trust administration, business formation, succession planning and real estate transactions. She represents farm owners, business owners and other small-business owners, along with traditional estate planning clients, mostly with mid-sized net worth.

When it comes to working with farm owners, Harrington said some of the challenges her clients face with succession planning include finding the balance between fair and equal when there are farm and nonfarm children, figuring out how to transition the operations and control of a farm operation while minimizing risk and figuring out options when none of the children are willing to take over the farm.

"I assist farm owners in almost every aspect of their estate planning and business work — whether that is forming a new entity to assist with liability protection and/or succession planning, buying or selling a piece of farmland or evaluating alternative energy agreements like wind and solar," she said.

Harrington said her interest in trusts and estates work was what convinced her to become an attorney, citing a discussion on life insurance and estate planning while interning at an insurance company as the moment that sparked her interest in legal work.

"This piqued my interest in the law as it opened my eyes to the fact attorneys can do so much more than litigate," she said. "I enjoy working with clients through the planning process because I enjoy getting to know clients and their loved ones and helping to give them peace of mind that they have a well-executed plan in place."

According to the firm, Warner Norcross currently has around 230 attorneys across nine Michigan offices, in Grand Rapids, Detroit, Midland, Macomb County, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Lansing, Holland and Bloomfield Hills.

--Editing by Rich Mills.

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