



Working from the ground up.

If you're involved in a new business venture, Dodd & Associates has special expertise in developing ... and working with ... agricultural cooperatives and start-up companies. We have taken organizations from a start-up idea through implementing a business plan and then providing legal assistance once the business is established. We understand the challenges that come with zoning laws, environmental regulations, financing and research. Our experience means that the process of starting a new venture can be dramatically streamlined.



Mission

To provide solution-oriented legal services which will achieve our clients' goals in a timely, caring and professional manner.

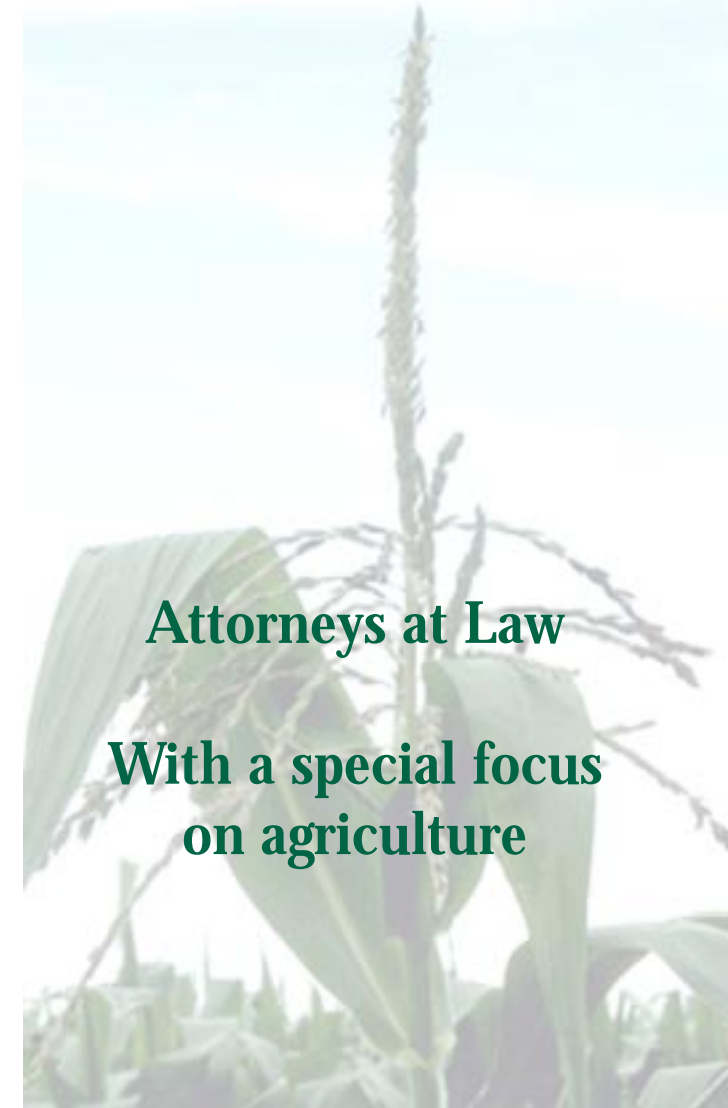
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Attorneys at Law



Attorneys at Law

**With a special focus
on agriculture**

From the office to the field.

Robert Dodd & Associates has established itself as a premier law firm working with agribusiness and ag producers. Our team members have specialized knowledge of the business of farming and the agricultural community, and they're dedicated to helping large and small clients succeed in this complex industry.

Our staff's experience includes:

- Working with large agricultural cooperatives and multi-state value-added agribusinesses.
- Organizing and overseeing ethanol and renewable fuels projects as they formalize into LLCs, cooperatives and other business structures.
- Providing family farm and business estate planning.
- Developing business plans to meet conservation and environmental regulations.
- Facilitating complex 1031 exchange transactions.
- Consulting for a corn tortilla manufacturing plant and soybean processing facility.
- Serving as consultants to Western Illinois University's Illinois Value-Added Rural Development Center.
- Developing private placement offerings.
- Teaching agribusiness seminars in management, value-added agriculture, cooperative law and other areas.



Our team understands agriculture.

A farming operation is both a highly sophisticated enterprise and a small business. It requires a combination of traditional practices and high technology, along with specialized knowledge of production, conservation and environmental regulations.

Dodd & Associates knows the business of farming is unique and we understand its many dimensions. Our team members have made a commitment to this industry, and we're ready to provide legal services to meet a wide range of needs -- from setting up a family trust to organizing an agricultural cooperative. Plus we can help with corporate start-ups and organizations.

Most of our attorneys have backgrounds in farming communities, and all have an interest in helping farmers prosper. Whether your business is a small family farm or a large corporation, our attorneys have the expertise and the resources to provide timely, focused answers to your questions. Unlike many other firms, we don't need to do extra background research to help you take advantage of opportunities and avoid common pitfalls.

Dodd & Associates knows ag law.

Robert Dodd, president and managing attorney, has maintained his own law practice since receiving his J.D. from the University of Illinois in 1974. He is primarily responsible in the practice for profit and non-profit corporations, business organization, real estate and zoning matters. In addition to his work with agricultural cooperatives and small companies, he has a particular interest in family legal matters and the needs of the developmentally disabled.

Mary Christine Ludwig focuses her practice on agricultural law. A graduate of the leading ag law institution, Drake Law School, Mary Christine is active in her family's farming operation and

has a thorough knowledge of agricultural production issues and has a background in financial consulting for farmers. She also has expertise in business management and holds an MBA degree from Drake University.

Robert "Bob" Beyers has more than 25 years' experience in business and commercial law, including worker's compensation and commercial litigation. He also brings a farm background to the firm and has extensive experience in farm estate and trust planning. Bob received his law degree from the University of Illinois in 1974.

Robert Cochran joined the firm after a distinguished career in banking. He has extensive experience in farm trust administration, financial planning, particularly in the areas of wills, trusts and probate. Robert is a 1969 graduate of the University of Missouri School of Law.

Mary Ann Midden is an expert on environmental, land-use and zoning, employment, real estate and municipal law. She earned her law degree from Southern Illinois University and has been a practicing attorney since 1979. She also holds a masters degree in library and information science.

Margaret Wright is the newest to the firm and contributes significant experience in business and securities law. She received her J.D. from Pepperdine School of Law and her L.L.M. from New York University in Corporation Law.

