Finding an attorney in Minnesota

Finding an attorney who will support your rights can sometimes be a confusing and intimidating process. We put together a general list of resources for **transgender** Minnesotans who may be looking for legal representation.

In General

There are many Minnesota organizations that assist people in finding legal help, including free or low-cost legal help. To find organizations like this in your area, a google search may turn up the most options (e.g. "legal aid + housing + Minneapolis"). You can also go to **www.lawhelpmn.org** and click on "get legal help."

It never hurts to ask an attorney or legal service if they work with transgender clients. Your legal queries will be treated with confidentiality, so even if you are concerned about how and attorney or organization may respond if you disclose, they cannot share your private information.

If you need additional pointers on how to interview an attorney, download Lambda Legal's tools for finding an attorney at **www.lambdalegal.org**/publications/take-the-power/selecting-an-attorney.html.

MLBA Attorney Directory

The Minnesota Lavender Bar Association is a voluntary, state-wide professional association of LGBT attorneys, law students, professors, legal professionals and our allies. MLBA provides a visible LGBT presence within Minnesota's legal system.

MLBA maintains a directory of their member attorneys and denotes those that have experience with transgender clients, special training in transgender legal issues, and/or are open to serving transgender clients.

The MLBA member directory is not a referral service, but is accessible to the public. Go to **www.mnlavbar.org** and click on "member directory."

OutFront Minnesota

OutFront Minnesota can often provide assistance finding an attorney. You can email Phil Duran, staff attorney for OutFront, at phil@outfront.org, or call (612) 822-7663.

Minnesota Lavender Bar Association provides a visible LGBT presence within Minnesota's legal system.

Minnesota Transgender Legal Resources

National Lawyers Guild, Minnesota
The National Lawyers Guild, Minnesota has an ongoing project creating "**know your rights**" manuals about how transgender people in Minnesota are affected by specific areas of law.

These manuals can be downloaded in PDF form, and can be used as an educational resources about your rights, current Minnesota law, and finding legal resources. This can be a first step in researching a possible legal issue.

Criminal law and housing law manuals can be found at **www.nlgminnesota.org** and then click "resources." These manuals can also be found at www.mnlavbar.org.

OutFront Minnesota
OutFront MN has a legal program that provides assistance to the LGBT community in Minnesota, and does a lot of work around transgender issues.

Their website provides information on issues affecting transgender people in Minnesota, especially name and document changes.

For more information go to **www.outfront.org** and click "library" for transgender specific information.

Lambda Legal, Minnesota
Lambda is a national LGBT civil rights organization. The Lambda Minnesota website, **www.lambdalegal.org**/states-regions/minnesota.html, includes information about relationship recognition, employment, and parenting laws.

Lambda has a fact sheet about transgender people in the workplace that can be found at: www.lambdalegal.org/our-work/publications/facts-backgrounds/page-

National Transgender Legal Resources

Transgender Law Center
www.transgenderlawcenter.org
The Transgender Law Center (TLC) is a civil rights organization advocating for transgender communities. TLC provides direct legal services, engages in public policy advocacy and education and works to change laws and systems that fail to incorporate the needs and experiences of transgender people. Although TLC primarily serves California, out of state attorneys and legal workers can call to request resources or insight.

National Coalition for Transgender Equality
www.nctequality.org
The National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) is a 501(c)3 social justice organization dedicated to advancing the equality of transgender people through advocacy, collaboration and empowerment. NCTE provides this presence by monitoring federal activity and communicating this activity to our members around the country, providing congressional education, and establishing a center of expertise on transgender issues. NCTE also maintains a federal transgender activists' network. NCTE's website include issue-based resources and information on topics including homelessness, immigration, employment, health care, and prisons.

Sylvia Rivera Law Project, www.srlp.org
SRLP provides free legal services to transgender, intersex and gender nonconforming low-income people and people of color in the New York area. SRLP provides advice and referral for a wide variety of legal issues. SRLP has historically been welcoming to requests for insight and information from attorneys and legal workers outside of New York.

National Center for Lesbian Rights
www.nclrights.org
The National Center for Lesbian Rights helps GLBT individuals and families nationwide through litigation, public policy advocacy, and public education. NCLR offers a legal helpline during regular business hours, and the best way to request assistance is by filling out an online help form on NCLR's website. NCLR provides referrals, assistance locating GLBT-aware attorneys, and offers limited direct services. NCLR can also be an excellent resource for local attorneys looking for national support.