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AAALA Elects Traxinger as President-Elect

PORTLAND, Ore. — Mike Traxinger, in-house corporate attorney for Agtegra Cooperative, has been elected as president-elect for the American Agricultural Law Association following his three-year term on the AALA Board of Directors. He will begin this leadership position following AALA's annual conference October 25-27, 2018 in Portland, Oregon.

Traxinger received a J.D. from Drake University Law School with a focus in agricultural law and a B.A. from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. He is the first to serve in his role for Agtegra Cooperative, one of the top 10 largest agricultural cooperatives in the United States. He has worked for South Dakota Farmers Union, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, and the National Conference of State Legislatures as well as served as a congressional staffer for U.S. Representative Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin.

Since 2014, he has chaired the Agricultural Law Committee of the State Bar of South Dakota. He is a past president of the Brown County Bar Association and is a director on the Board of Directors of the South Dakota Association of Cooperatives.

Traxinger received the 2016 Excellence in Agricultural Law Award from the AALA. He is a member of AALA, the Association of Corporate Counsel, Brown County Bar Association, Minnesota State Bar Association, South Dakota Farm Bureau, South Dakota Farmers Union, South Dakota Simmental Association, State Bar Association of North Dakota and State Bar of South Dakota. Traxinger is also a Class VII alumnus of the South Dakota Agricultural and Rural Leadership program.

A native of Houghton, South Dakota, and a fifth-generation South Dakota farmer, Traxinger maintains a small herd of cattle on his family's farm operation, Traxinger Simmentals, and grows row crops. Traxinger has a passion for the family farm, and for the past four years he has organized the Brown County Farmers Union and Farm Safety Camp where local youth learn about the importance of the cooperative model and how to practice safety on the farm.

Established in 1980, the American Agricultural Law Association is a national professional association serving as the premier association for agricultural law and policy professionals. Its mission is informing and engaging the law and policy professionals who serve all facets of the agricultural and food communities. For more information, visit aglaw-assn.org.

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