

Chris Van Hook

Attorney at Law

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California State Bar No. 243550

Job History:

April 1, 2019

August 2006 – Present: Establishment of Private Legal Practice.

Establishment of a state wide private legal practice with offices in Crescent City California. I have a mobile law office as well, that has been written up by the American Bar Association. This mobile office allows me to provide agricultural compliance/ administrative law services throughout California and the western states. Interpretation of the USDA NOP regulations can be and is done globally.

April 2004 – January 2017: Global Culture LLC Accredited by the U.S.D.A to certify organic operations. This Federal accreditation allowed us to combine our international consulting, as well as (now) 43 years of agricultural experience. We received our full accreditation April 13, 2003.

1981 – January 2008: Global Culture Owner & Proprietor of this agriculture and mariculture consulting firm, which advises on projects of abalone farming, kelp farming and harvesting, salmon culture, and agricultural farms throughout the western United States, Jamaica, Haiti, Mexico, Canada, Iceland, Chile, and numerous other locations and global environments.

1987 - 2012 Abalone International, Inc.: Crescent City, California

Director, General Manager of Operations and majority holder of this harbor-based abalone farming company. Design, plan, permitting, construction and operations of farm. Sales, marketing and business development implemented throughout the U.S., China, and Japan. Responsible for an annual operating budget of \$500,000.

1997 - 2001 Crescent City Harbor Commission: Elected to and served a four-year term as Harbor Commissioner. Oversaw an annual budget of \$1.5 million. Worked with numerous State and Federal regulatory agencies regarding environmental water issues, dredging, Coastal Commission, direct management of the CEO and Harbor Master. Involved the Community for Cooperative Harbor Development.

1978 - 1987 Independent Orchard Works: Santa Barbara County, California

Owner of this farm and ranch development company. Farm development on an average budget in excess of \$1M. Experienced with management of creek side development issues.

1978 - 1984 California Lifeguard Association: Santa Barbara County, California

Hired and trained as a beach life guard, spending the last three years as Supervisor of all guarded Santa Barbara County Beaches, Santa Barbara, California.

Education:

Juris Doctor, Concord School of Law, 2005. Admitted to California Bar June 19, 2006

BA in Environmental Studies, minor in Zoology, U.C. Santa Barbara, 1982

Related Activities/ Community Involvement: Please note: This is only a partial listing.

January 2018 – Present – Available for and conducting annual reviews for USDA NOP accredited certification companies as a third party independent reviewer. These annual reviews are an integral part of their accreditation requirements.

January 2017 – Present - Providing legal review of USDA NOP regulations, and advice on other NOP compliance issues. Including but not limited to corrective actions when a non-compliance has been issued, assistance in the investigation process when an investigation is required and moving into the organic market place.

February 19-21, 2014 USDA NOP / ACA Training in San Diego California. This three day training covered updates to the USDA National Organic Program as well as training in crop production, processor/handling, labeling review, material review and the legal aspects of food production and handling.

January 2014 Contributor – Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors at the request of Supervisor Leopold and Board Chair Supervisor Friend. I was asked to assist in the development of a county ordinance which allowed for third party certifications of county farms.

October 13-15, 2013 USDA NOP on-site audit of Global Culture LLC's certification activities. This three day on-site audit by USDA auditors was a comprehensive review of Global Culture's certification procedures and determinations. This audit covered the three areas of crop production, livestock production processing and handling as well as applicable labeling regulations under both state and federal labeling laws. The audit reviewed our office as well as field inspection activities. This audit was our "10 year" audit, having successfully completed 10 years of USDA organic certifications. There were no non-compliances found.

September 6, 2013 – Attendee of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, State Organic Program Round Table Meeting for USDA Accredited Organic Certification Companies. Topics included new California pesticide regulations for organic production, definitions of agriculture, registration of new land, and updates on the California input registration requirements.

January 15 – 17, 2013 – Attendee of the 2013 annual National Organic Program and Accredited Certifier Training for Certifying Agents, Orland Florida. Three days of training on new developments of the National Organic Program, USDA programs, and specialized training for federally accredited Third Party Certifiers. Topics included: Pesticide residue testing and protocols, Regulation updates, enforcement and auditing of program participants, mediation, and in depth training of input and ingredient reviews.

December 2012 – One of three featured attorneys from across the US (apart from the study area of upstate New York) in a book published by the American Bar Association

entitled “Practicing Law in Small-Town America, authored by Richard L. Hermann. Chapter 28, p. 213 – 222. The author describes our practice and calls it “probably unique in the United States” (p. 219 para (5))

February 7, 2011 - Attendee at the National Organic Program Accredited Certifying Agents Training in Portland, Oregon. Annual mandatory training given by the USDA to Accredited Certification Company management staff to update attendees on changes and updates to the National Organic Program.

October 6 – 8, 2008 USDA ON-SITE AUDIT OF GLOBAL CULTURE OPERATIONS. This three day audit was a detailed and valuable training opportunity. Review of all of our policies and procedures, as well as having a USDA auditor follow me on three operation on-site inspections.

January 15, 2008 ACA/NASOP TRAINING, Louisville, Kentucky. Review of materials from the one day training and ACA meeting. Presentations included material review, NOP pesticide/input review, processing materials, Packaging aides, Pasture and Livestock care and compliance.

January 23, 2007 USDA AMS NOP TRAINING SESSION, Pacific Grove, California. Training presented by NOP personnel regarding NOP regulation implementation, updates and revisions after the Harvey decision.

January 25, 2006 USDA AMS NOP TRAINING SESSION, Pacific Grove, California. Training presented by NOP personnel regarding NOP regulation implementation.

December 2, 2005 - NOP Organic Practices Training Seminar, Concentration on Organic Retail Practices, Crop Production Practices, and Organic Dairy Management. Presented by Mr. Ray Green, Supervisor California Organic Program (an approved SOP). Crescent City, California

May 2003 – January 2017 - Initial Application Review, Inspection of, and Filing of Inspection Reports of approximately 900 Organic Operations. This list includes livestock and crop production operations, as well as processor/handlers. Many operations were visited as part of my accreditations by USDA NOP auditors. Never were any non-compliance found during these inspections by the USDA NOP auditors.

November, 2002 - April, 2003 - Development of Policies, and Procedures for USDA Organic Accreditation of Global Culture. Full accreditation granted April 13, 2003.

August – November, 2002 – Hired and trained as an Organic Inspector for CERTIFIED ORGANIC a USDA accredited organic certification company based in Ventura, California. Received training in inspections for crop production, livestock and processor/handlers. This was the first year of the new USDA Organic Program.