

# Chris Van Hook

## Attorney at Law

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California State Bar No. 243550

*Available Globally. Virtually or In Person*

### 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

### USDA NOP Core Competencies / Experience and Achievements – partial listing

**Independent Orchard Works:** Santa Barbara County, California 1978-1987  
Owner of this farm and ranch development company. Farm development on an average budget in excess of \$1M. Experienced with management of creekside development issues.

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

**Providing legal review of USDA NOP regulations,** and advice on other NOP Jan' 2017 – Present  
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.

**Supporting Member Accredited Certifiers Association:** Feb. 2019 - Present  
I had been a member of the ACA for many years as an accredited certifier (2004-2018). I joined as a supporting member in February 2019. This allows me to stay current with the issues discussed.

**Enrolled in the USDA AMS NOP Organic Integrity Learning Center Program:** Feb' 2020 - Present  
I attended a learning program as an attorney working in the NOP regulations, as a reviewer and compliance consultant, and as a former accredited certifier myself from April, 2004 until January 2018.

**ACA Internal Review Working Group Member** Oct 21, 2022 - Present

**Annual Program Reviews for USDA NOP Accredited Certifiers, in compliance with 205.501(a)(7)** January 2018 – Present  
Conduct 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.

**Establishment of Private Legal Practice:** Aug' 2006 - Present  
Provide agricultural USDA NOP compliance/ administrative law services globally.

**Marine and Coastal Law : Core Competencies / Experience and Achievements** – partial listing

**Abalone International, Inc.:**

1998 - 2012

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 the annual operating budget.

**Crescent City Harbor Commission:**

Nov,1997 –Nov, 2001

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.

**Global Culture:** Owner & Proprietor of agriculture and mariculture consulting firm Jan,1981 – Jan, 2008 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 globally.

**Establishment of Private Legal Practice:** Working in Marine and Coastal Issues Aug' 2006 - Present  
Expert Witness, deposition preparation, case development