

## **Chris Van Hook, Attorney at Law**

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### **Summary:**

Perform research, development and implementation regarding issues of public perception, and legislative policy/law/regulations in Sacramento for 23 years. Lobby throughout the Capitol meeting Senate and Assembly Members from both parties for particular items of interest to the aquaculture, agriculture and environmental industries.

Was on the Northern California Oil Response Team for over ten years (1992 – 2004). This team consisted of members from numerous State, and Federal agencies who directed the design and execution of oil spill exercises in and around the Crescent City Harbor and outer waters.

Involved in numerous publicity campaigns regarding the environmental, agriculture, and aquaculture industries. Have worked with journalists throughout California and Oregon orchestrating industry response to various environmental concerns involving industrial development issues.

### **Job History:**

August 2006 – Present Establishment of Private Legal Practice.

Establishment of a State wide private legal practice with offices in both Crescent City and Pacifica California. Concentrating on business law, real property issues, compliance and administrative law.

August 2004 – Present Clean Green Certified Agricultural Program.

Establishment of a parallel third party agricultural certification system incorporating aspects of the NOP, International Organic Programs, and Sustainable Farming practices to allow producers an alternative to the USDA NOP Program.

April 2003 – Present Global Culture LLC Accredited by the U.S.D.A to certify organic operations.

This was the first year of the new USDA Organic Certification Program. This Federal accreditation allows us to combine our international consulting, as well as 43 years of agricultural experience. We received our full accreditation April 13, 2003.

1981 - Present 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. This operation has been discontinued due to governmental over regulation.

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, University of California, Santa Barbara, 1982
- My areas of work and study were aquaculture, and agriculture. Later in life I pursued a Doctorate of Law Degree

### **Related Activities/ Community Involvement:**

- Guest lecturer for Humboldt State University (10 yrs.). Commercial fisheries and aquaculture classes.
- Written, or interviewed for, numerous papers and articles regarding aquaculture. Published in papers in 160 countries throughout the world. (Available on request)

### **Relevant Training and Experience:**

- 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 medical

marijuana growers to confirm compliance with Santa Cruz County guidelines. This ordinance was developed and accepted by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors.

- 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))
- December 7, 2012 – Attendee of the Third Annual State Bar, continuing education seminar titled: Current Issues in Medical Marijuana Regulation. A day long seminar with top medical cannabis attorneys through out the State. Specifically for practicing attorneys. Topics included: compliance issues, compliance planning, Compliance with Health Regulations, Criminal Defense of Medical Marijuana Cases in both State and Federal cases, Parental Rights for Medical Marijuana Users and New Problems Local Governments Will Face in 2012. New for 2012 was the participation of two US Attorneys, who were able to illuminate the differences between State and Federal laws pertaining to marijuana.
- April 1, 2011 – Faculty Speaker and Attendee of the Second Annual State Bar, continuing education seminar titled: Medical Marijuana. A day long seminar with top medical cannabis attorneys through out the State. Specifically for practicing attorneys. Topics included: compliance issues, compliance planning, Compliance with Health Regulations, Criminal Defense of Medical Marijuana Cases, Parental Rights for Medical Marijuana Users, New Problems Local Governments Will Face in 2011, New Attorney General Guidelines, establishment of collectives, and non-profit corporations, selection of the proper business structure for a specific client. My subject of discussion was the value of a third party inspection process for medical cannabis and what qualifications should a

certification company have.

- 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.
- January 2011 – Present Contributor (at the request of Mr. Nathan Donahoe, West Los Angeles Neighborhood Councilman) in the development of a Medical Cannabis ordinance regarding dispensary regulations and the use of third party inspectors to aide in the compliance of the permitted facilities.
- July 2010 – December 2011 Third party medical cannabis compliance inspector for the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department. Process included a written application, an oral interview, a complete back ground check, fingerprinting and California Department of Justice check. I was selected as one of three inspectors to work in the field implementing the 9.31 ordinance mentioned above, under the direction of Sheriff Tom Allman. This program was highlighted in numerous articles, T.V. news programs, and included in a National Geographic program on the medical cannabis industry screened November 2011. This was a very interesting and exciting program to be involved with. The program was discontinued at the suggestion of US Federal Attorneys in 2011 after initial approval by their office in 2009. I assisted in the writing of the program as well as was involved until it's conclusion in 2011.
- June 21, 2010 – Attendee of the First Annual State Bar, continuing education seminar titled: Medical Marijuana. A day long seminar with top medical cannabis attorneys through out the State. Specifically for practicing attorneys. Topics included: compliance issues, compliance planning, establishment of collectives, and non-profit corporations. Defense concerns and proper business structure for various forms of canna businesses. This seminar was used by the California State Bar to recognize medical marijuana compliance law as a new and sanctioned field of law in California.
- February – April 2010 Contributor (at the request of City Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan staff) in the development of the Oakland City ordinance regulating the cultivation of medical cannabis in Oakland City. Discussions were had as to the community economic impacts of large scale versus small scale medical cannabis cultivation, and how environmental and safety standards might be met in an urban area.
- August 2009 - Present Contributor (at the request of South Lake Tahoe City Officials) in the development of standards and guidelines for the development of an ordinance regulating the cultivation of medical cannabis and permitting of medical cannabis dispensaries in the City of South Lake Tahoe. Topics included California location of facilities, proper zoning and proper procedures for dispensary operations.
- June 2009 - July 2010 Contributor (at the request of Mendocino County) in the development, writing, passing and implementation of Mendocino County's 9.31 (99) plant medical cannabis ordinance.
- 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.
- 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. I inspected for, and represented the company in Northern California during this three month period. This was the first year of the new USDA Organic Program.
- 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
- April 19, 2004 – Development of the Clean Green Certified agricultural program for medical cannabis and other agricultural crops at the request of the cannabis industry. This request was a result of the USDA not recognizing medical cannabis as eligible for the National Organic Program – a federal program.
- May 2003 – Present - 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. Some operations have been re-inspected and updated in their certification.
- November, 2002 - April, 2003 - Development of Policies, and Procedures for USDA Organic Accreditation of Global Culture. Full accreditation granted April 13, 2003.