

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

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### **Summary:**

I have been involved in the legal cannabis industries throughout the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico since 2004. I founded and continue to operate today the longest running, largest, most qualified and most award-winning cannabis certification program in the world, the Clean Green Certified program. This program has allowed me to visit, inspect and consult with over a thousand individual growing fields, green houses as well as indoor operations. In addition, I have visited and inspected hundreds of cannabis processors producing the entire range of cannabis concentrates and processed products. There is no other individual that I know of that has the depth and breadth of experience in the multiple aspects of the cannabis industries as I have had. As a cannabis and agricultural compliance attorney I bring the education and strategic mindset of an attorney/expert ready to assist those that are accepted as clients.

### **Job History:**

August 2004 – Present founder and director of the Clean Green Certified Agricultural Program.

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

August 2006 – Present Establishment of Private Legal Practice.

Establishment of a statewide private legal practice in California. Concentrating on business law, real property issues, compliance and administrative law. I have clients throughout the state.

April 2003 – 2018 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. There are only 84 entities globally that have received this global accreditation.

1987 – 2012 Founder and director of Abalone International, Inc., Crescent City, California

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.

1981 – 2018 Global Culture, Crescent City, California

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.

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:**

- 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.
- November, 2002 - April, 2003 - Development of Policies, and Procedures for USDA Organic Accreditation of Global Culture. Full accreditation was granted April 13, 2003.
- April 19, 2004 – Development of the Clean Green Certified agricultural program for medical cannabis 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- July 2010 – Present 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 has been a very interesting and exciting program to be involved with and I am scheduled to continue this work through the 2011 growing season as well.

- 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.
  
- 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.
  
- 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.
  
- December 31, 2011 – Completed second full year as a Mendocino County Sheriff's Dept. medical cannabis compliance inspector. 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 the only program of it's kind in the country. Aproximately 30,000 lbs of medical cannabis was grown under this program during the 2011 season.