

Agricultural Sciences & Technology



Where innovation
meets the law

Cooley

Premier Law Firm for Agtech Innovators and Investors

Cooley has a full-service global platform comprised of lawyers with decades of experience in the agricultural biotechnology, microbial engineering, microbiome, food, animal and plant science industries, delivering an unparalleled combination of innovative legal guidance, deep industry knowledge and practical understanding of our clients' needs.

Our multidisciplinary approach allows for seamless collaboration between lawyers across related practice areas, including intellectual property, litigation, FDA/regulatory, licensing, strategic transactions and collaboration deals, and venture financing. We have unparalleled access to one of the largest and most influential networks of leading venture capitalists, financial institutions and other strategic partners who can help our clients get to the next level.



**Emerging Company
Law Firm of the Year
Honoree**

Legalweek 2021

Agricultural Sciences & Technology Industry Group

Corporate

- Top law firm for VC financings and #1 law firm for representing VC-backed companies for the past decade
- Most active law firm for technology and life sciences IPOs for the past decade (named Capital Markets Practice Group of the Year by Law360)
- Top law firm for M&A deals with 1,000+ transactions in the past 5 years (aggregate deal value of \$395+ billion)
- Market-leading corporate partnering and licensing practice group with experience leading thousands of transactions across various technologies and stages of product development (named Licensing & Collaboration Firm of the Year by LMG Life Sciences)
- Counsel to agricultural startup companies involved in some of the largest venture-backed agricultural sector fundraising rounds of the past several years
- Adviser to Tilray in the first-ever US cannabis IPO

Litigation

- Global commercial litigation practice led by sophisticated and aggressive advocates with a long history of solving complex issues that are at the intersection of law and innovation
- 400+ litigators in 17 major business and technology centers worldwide handling high-stakes litigation for cutting-edge companies
- Experience litigating in various venues, including US federal and state courts, a broad spectrum of administrative tribunals and international arbitral forums and English courts
- Litigation includes cases involving agricultural technology, including proprietary vegetable varieties and genomic engineering tools utilized to produce gene-edited crops

Intellectual Property

- Global practice of 150+ lawyers offering full-service representation across all areas of IP prosecution, strategic counseling, due diligence and litigation
- One of the largest life sciences patent teams in the US with a dedicated agricultural sciences group of a dozen patent lawyers and professionals with PhDs and technical expertise across all pertinent areas in the plant science, food science, agrochemical and agbiotech fields (honoree for LMG Life Sciences' Patent Strategy and Management Firm of the Year)
- Significant experience litigating IP cases involving agricultural technology, including proprietary vegetable varieties and genomic engineering tools utilized to produce gene-edited crops
- 1,000+ investor-side and company-side IP due diligence reviews in high-value financings, M&A deals, capital market offerings and other transactions
- Global trademark team with experience representing clients' trademark, copyright and advertising interests in virtually every jurisdiction in the world
- Team obtained the first patents in US, Canadian and European history related to cannabis germplasm expressing THC

Regulatory

- Team represents companies in regulatory and legislative matters before US federal and state agencies, and provides regulatory compliance advice on international, federal, state and local employment and labor laws, including affirmative action, discrimination, wage and hour, health and safety, unions and collective bargaining, compensation and benefits
- Dedicated FDA team counsels clients on pre-approval and commercial strategies and compliance matters
- Adviser to international clients on regulatory matters, with significant experience on EU regulations
- Team helps US and non-US companies on compliance with US laws and regulations that govern the cross-border movement of goods, services and technology and affect the way US companies conduct business overseas
- Government analytics practice provides clients with federal public policy insights and regulatory strategies to make informed business decisions



**Cooley represents 30% of the biotech
companies on THRIVE's list of the
Top 50 Agtech Startups**

Representative Technologies and Products

- New varieties of major row crops, including corn, soy, wheat and potatoes
- Diverse fruits and vegetables
- Horticultural technologies, including flower breeding and floriculture
- Traditional plant breeding technology
- Next-generation plant breeding innovation
- Gene-edited plants
- Agricultural biologicals
- Animal husbandry
- Microbial treatments
- Microbiome modulation
- Nitrogen fixation technology
- Biofuels
- Synthetic biology
- Recombinant microbes
- Insect pheromone technology
- Hemp
- Medical cannabis
- Natural crop protectants and bioprospecting
- Natural and organic drug, food and beverage extracts and compositions
- Alternative proteins
- Food compositions
- High-tech precision agriculture
- Big data analytics
- Software as a Service (SaaS) and cloud services



Recent Work Highlights

Allbirds

Cooley advises eco-friendly footwear company Allbirds on global trademark and brand protection matters, and in all financing activity since its inception, including its 2020 \$100 million Series E financing.

eFishery

Cooley advised eFishery, an Indonesian agtech startup, on its \$90 million Series C financing round, which marks the largest fundraising by an aquaculture technology startup in the world. eFishery aims to build an aquaculture ecosystem in Indonesia that is not only profitable but also sustainable to the farmers and to all stakeholders.

AppHarvest

Cooley advised AppHarvest, a developer and operator of large-scale, high-tech controlled environment indoor farms, on its agreement to combine with Novus Capital, a publicly traded special purpose acquisition company (SPAC).

Evolutionary Genomics

Cooley represented Evolutionary Genomics in its partnership with the Dole Food Company to develop and commercialize banana plant varieties resistant to a fungus that threatens to devastate the banana industry.

BrightFarms

Cooley advised BrightFarms, a leading next-generation indoor farming company supplying US grocery retailers with packaged salad greens, on its \$100 million Series E financing.

Gevo

Cooley favorably resolved a multiyear competitor patent battle for biofuels pioneer Gevo by leveraging a string of victories – including at the US Supreme Court – to reach a favorable cross-license agreement.

Limagrain

Cooley represents Limagrain and its affiliates Vilmorin, Vilmorin North America, HM.Clause and AgReliant Genetics in matters of patent procurement, intellectual property strategy and enforcement. Cooley also represented Vilmorin North America in patent litigation concerning a proprietary vegetable variety.



Recent Work Highlights

Native Microbials

Cooley represents Native Microbials – a pioneer in the emerging science of endomicrobial ecology for raising healthier farm animals and livestock – in ongoing patent counseling and prosecution work to build its global patent portfolio. Cooley also advised the company on its 2020 \$46 million Series B financing.

Pivot Bio

Cooley has represented Pivot Bio since its inception and works closely with the company on corporate and financing activity, commercial transactions, and the development and implementation of a market-leading IP portfolio. Cooley recently advised the company on its \$430 million Series D financing.

Nobell Foods

Cooley has served as primary IP counsel to Nobell Foods since its founding, helping the company protect its innovative contributions aimed at making the world's food systems more humane and sustainable. Nobell Foods is utilizing the power of plants to reimagine the world's food supply and produce delicious cheese from plant-derived dairy proteins. The company completed a \$75 million Series B round in 2021 to help bring its vision to the world.

Provivi

Cooley handles patent prosecution and counseling for Provivi, an emerging agricultural company with a vision to change the way the world controls insect pests, and we represent the company in all corporate and financing activity, including its 2020 \$45.5 million Series C-2 round.



Vital Farms

Cooley advised Vital Farms, a certified B Corporation and Delaware public benefit corporation that offers a range of ethically produced pasture-raised food products across the US, on its \$235.4 million initial public offering.

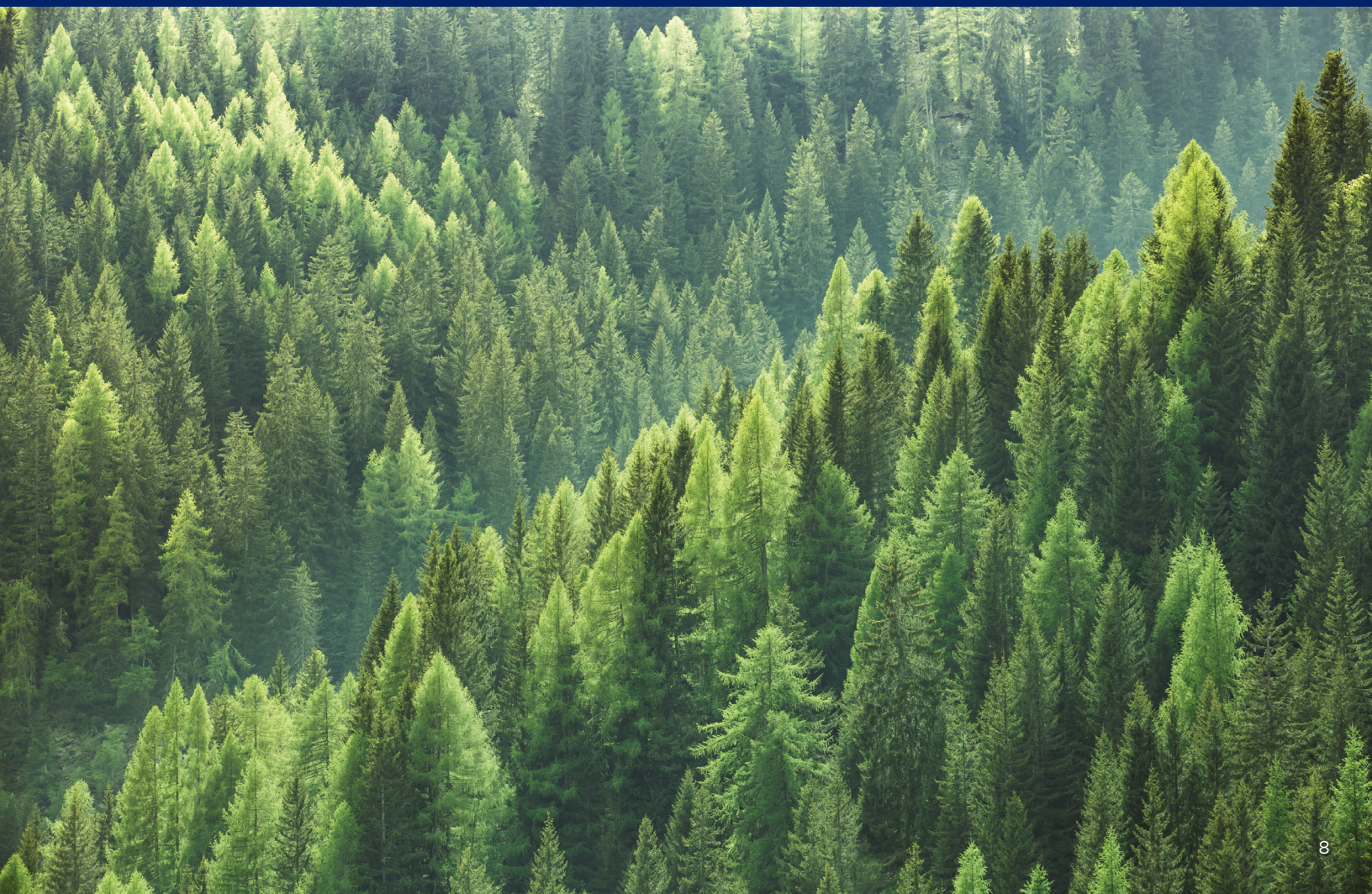
Zymergen

Cooley has served as primary IP counsel to Zymergen since its founding, helping the company navigate IP diligence through various funding rounds and establish a robust IP estate. Zymergen – a synthetic biology and biofacturing company developing molecules used in industries such as agriculture, chemicals, materials, pharmaceuticals, electronics and more – had a successful debut on the public markets with a NASDAQ listing in 2021.

Commitment to Sustainability

Cooley is proud to serve as a strategic partner to companies committed to sustainability. Many of our clients are environmental leaders in their industries, with several ranked among the Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World. Much like our clients, Cooley is committed to business practices that aid in the preservation and protection of the environment. Providing legal services to companies and organizations dedicated to advancing sustainability has long been a cornerstone of our pro bono practice.

We also conduct a yearly audit of our environmental impact – which informs our green goals and programs – as we continue to make progress in sustainable commuting, renewable energy, paper and technology recycling, waste recycling, locally sourced food and alternatives to single-use plastics.



Scientists or lawyers?
We're hard to label.

cooley.com/aglaw

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