



HUSCH BLACKWELL

Food & Agribusiness

From family farms to global operations, Husch Blackwell's Food & Agribusiness clients feed the world, and we're with them every step of the way. Our food and agribusiness legal and business advice helps them meet today's challenges and leverage opportunities to grow and thrive.

Across the agricultural world, from gene editing, drone and other agricultural technology to alcohol and cannabis, we help clients capitalize on changes in production, processing, distribution and regulation of food. Our clients are at the center of a rapidly changing industry—and they're often driving those changes themselves.

Many of our Food & Agribusiness professionals have a special focus on various areas of interest to clients, including:



Agricultural Technology

We help businesses capitalize on the opportunities presented by today's agricultural revolution—big data, gene editing, nanotechnology, unmanned aircraft systems and other advances.



Alcohol & Beverage

With a team that includes a former in-house counsel for the world's largest brewer, we bring in-depth knowledge of the beverage industry to our practice.



Animal Health & Production

Our team understands both the law and the science of animal health, with Ph.D.-level scientists and attorneys with backgrounds in molecular chemistry, vaccines, immunology, genetics, pharmacology and physiology.



Cannabis

We have helped clients leverage opportunities in the state legal cannabis industry for nearly a decade, serving the first regulated markets from the outset.



Food Safety & Regulation

From farm to fork, our FDA compliance attorneys help businesses establish consistent and compliant practices to meet the labyrinthine challenges of food and safety regulation.



Franchise & Distribution

We advise clients on the design, implementation, financing and maintenance of domestic and international franchise and distribution systems.

Work Highlights

- Defended American Simmental Association against allegations of patent infringement involving a method of using genetic merit data to determine the relative value of livestock. Obtained dismissal and successfully petitioned the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to re-evaluate the validity of patents in post-grant proceedings.
- Represented Associated Wholesale Grocers Inc. in the nearly \$300 million acquisition of six operating divisions from the Fleming Cos. Inc. bankruptcy in Wilmington, Delaware.
- Represented one of the largest cannabis security companies in its reverse merger into a publicly reporting company in 2015.
- Negotiated multimillion-dollar sponsorship deals for beverage companies with major sports leagues and major international sporting events, including the Olympics and the World Cup.
- Represented National Beef as a trade vendor in the bankruptcy of Empire Beef Co. Inc. in Rochester, New York, and obtained recognition of the first Bankruptcy Code Section 503(b)(9) creditors' committee in the nation. Also obtained dismissal of the bankruptcy case, thereby avoiding litigation against all vendors over alleged preferential transfers, including National Beef, which was alleged to have received in excess of \$40 million in preferential transfers.
- Obtained dismissal for Doyle Equipment Manufacturing Co., maker of farm implements and road construction equipment, in patent infringement case in U.S. District Court involving agricultural implement technology.
- Represented Conagra Brands Inc. for more than a decade in labor and management relations for all of the company's major divisions: grain milling, snacks, frozen foods, shelf-stable goods, spices and potato products.

Client Success

Situation: Farmers Edge alleged that Farmobile's co-founders—former employees of a company acquired by Farmers Edge in 2014—had misappropriated purportedly proprietary information in the development of farm data-collection and standardization technologies. Farmobile turned to Husch Blackwell to defend it in potentially enterprise-threatening litigation.

Result: Persuasive argument by the Husch Blackwell team resulted in a complete victory on summary judgment for Farmobile. In dismissing all claims, the court held that the plaintiff “failed to identify any use or disclosure of the alleged trade secrets” and failed to prove it was entitled to damages or relief.



Connect with us:

Stay up to date on all the latest changes in industry law, regulations and best practices at <https://www.foodandaglawinsights.com/>

Relentless client focus.

At Husch Blackwell, we have built our law firm around one idea: to guide our clients from where they are to where they want to be. Our industry-centric approach gives us a deep understanding of what our clients face every day. But more than that, it creates a shared vision that moves our clients forward.