

a**DONE**deal

Client Name: VERDANT PARTNERS LLC
Other Key Players: Soygenetics LLC; FFR Cooperative; Seeds 2000, Inc.; and other Verdant clients
Types of Deals: Asset sales, stock sales, and private equity investments, several involving earnouts and staged payments
Size of Deals: \$100 million+ (collectively)

Principal WHD Team Members: Sverre Roang, Kristine Sperling, Philip Koutnik, James Lowe, Michael Taibleson, Arthur Phillips, John Emanuel, Gina Carter, Brian Anderson, Melinda Giftos, Teresa Noeske (paralegal)

Practice Groups Involved: Corporate, Tax, Intellectual Property, ERISA, Labor & Employment, Environmental, Litigation, Trusts & Estates, Finance, Immigration, Insurance

Verdant Partners LLC, located in Champaign, Ill., is the country's premier investment banking group for the global crop genetics industry, throughout all crops and all regions of the world. Verdant Partners has been a leader in agribusiness mergers and acquisitions, initiating and managing transactions valued at more than \$1 billion over the last decade. Today, when Verdant Partners' clients need experienced legal counsel to guide them through a transaction, they put Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C. atop their list.

In the last 18 months, WHD has represented clients in several Verdant Partners transactions with a cumulative value of over

WHD guides multiple companies through significant seed industry transactions

\$100 million. The clients, regional seed breeding and marketing companies, have been involved in strategic transactions with large multi-national companies and financial transactions with a private equity firm. Verdant Partners' clients required legal counsel who understood the seed industry and the myriad intellectual property issues involved in the transactions. Sverre Roang had that deep industry experience, and he utilized more than 15 WHD professionals to successfully negotiate and complete these complex deals.

“Verdant Partners is an investment banking firm specializing in transactions in the agricultural sector. We are frequently asked by clients to recommend legal counsel to assist in a divestiture or an acquisition transaction. Clients are looking for counsel who have experience in mergers and acquisitions and also specific experience in the agricultural sector and the unique aspects it brings to a transaction. Over the past two years, Verdant Partners has had the pleasure of working with Sverre Roang in connection with four client assignments with three being divestitures.

“I am very pleased to have introduced Sverre and his associates at Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek in each case. They did an outstanding job in managing the legal due diligence, deal structuring, and legal documentation in spite of some difficult legal, financial, and other issues. None of the transactions were considered ordinary as each had its own peculiarities and each presented some difficult structuring challenges. Sverre and his team were able to overcome these challenges while maintaining very positive relationships with the client as well as the party on the other side of the transaction.

“Based upon our experience to date, there is no question that Verdant Partners would first look to Sverre Roang and Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek in recommending counsel to current and future Verdant Partners clients.”

Dean V. Cavey, Managing Partner
Verdant Partners LLC

