

# AGTECH + PRIVATE EQUITY



Rooted in the heart of North Carolina's Research Triangle region – one of the world's leading agricultural research hubs – Smith Anderson provides businesses sophisticated legal counsel at the junction of Agtech and Private Equity. Our globally-ranked AgTech practice includes serving as counsel to 60+ of the world's most innovative companies in AgTech and FoodTech, across 9+ countries and 14+ states, ranging from public to private equity- and venture capital-backed growth companies of all sizes. Alongside is our firm's robust Private Equity practice, including more than 25 lawyers advising clients on senior and mezzanine financing, M&A and fund formation in North Carolina and beyond, an ideal blend of legal services to offer both AgTech companies and interested investors throughout the AgTech innovation lifecycle.



## Hundreds of Collaborations & Licenses Globally:

AgBiome ♦ Bayer CropScience ♦ Pairwise  
♦ Verdesian Life Sciences ♦ Benson Hill ♦  
Two Blades Foundation ♦ Plant Response  
♦ Athenix ♦ Advanced Animal Diagnostics  
♦ Elo Life Systems ♦ Plant Health Care ♦  
PowerPollen ♦ Oerth Bio ♦ Vestaron ♦  
Enko Chem ♦ 5Metis

## Prominent Investors in our AgTech Clients:

AEA Investors ♦ Anterra Capital ♦ Arch  
Venture Partners ♦ Bayer LEAPS ♦ Bill &  
Melinda Gates Foundation ♦ Blue Horizon  
Ventures ♦ Cavallo Ventures ♦ Cultivian  
Sandbox ♦ Deerfield Management Co. ♦ Fall  
Line Capital ♦ Finistere Ventures ♦ Harris  
& Harris Group ♦ Lewis & Clark Ventures ♦  
Middleland Capital ♦ Northpond Ventures ♦  
Ospraie Ag Science ♦ Ordway Selections ♦  
Paine Schwartz Partners ♦ Polaris Partners  
♦ Pontifax AgTech ♦ Prelude Ventures ♦  
Syngenta Ventures ♦ Temasek

## Key M&A Deals Spanning Decades:

Plant Response acquisition by Mosaic ♦  
Verdesian Life Sciences acquisition of  
Cytozyme ♦ Benson Hill acquisition of ZFS  
Creston ♦ Precision BioSciences divestiture  
of Elo Life Systems ♦ Athenix acquisition  
by Bayer ♦ GrassRoots Biotechnology  
acquisition by Monsanto



“When it comes to licensing and deals, they're the people I want at the table with me. They do a great job understanding the smallest detail while still keeping the big picture in mind. They think strategically about how each step in the negotiation positions me for my long-term goal. I am very pleased with the work they did on our international deals.”

– Client quotation  
as published in Chambers Global

## AGTECH CAPABILITIES + PRIVATE EQUITY CAPABILITIES

- Formation | Fund formation
- Financing | Senior credit facilities
- Corporate governance | Subordinated debt investments
- IP protection | Equity co-investments
- Licensing | Portfolio company dispositions
- Collaboration & partnering | Add-on acquisitions
- Mergers & acquisitions | Control transactions
- IPOs & public offerings | Management buyouts



# AGTECH + PRIVATE EQUITY

## SPOTLIGHT DEALS

Represented Benson Hill in its strategic partnership with ADM to leverage Benson Hill's proprietary ultra-high protein soybeans with ADM's production and commercial capabilities for protein ingredients.

Represented Pairwise in its license of groundbreaking DNA base editing technology in agriculture from Harvard University and related \$100M collaboration with Bayer.

Represented a BDC and SBIC co-investors in a \$37M secured mezzanine financing and \$5M common and preferred equity co-investment to fund the acquisition of the nation's leading provider of sustainable, environmentally and ethically responsible sweeteners.

Represented an agricultural manufacturer and its affiliates in a \$248M senior secured credit facility to finance working capital and acquisitions.

## AG TECHNOLOGY EXPERIENCE

genome editing • gene discovery • trait development and licensing • crop protection • crop nutrition • fertilizers • plant-based alternative proteins • plant-made pharmaceuticals • yield enhancement technologies • machine learning and artificial intelligence • precision agriculture • fertilizer optimization • novel chemistry • gene discovery • microbials • systems biology • animal health • cloud and computational biology • alternative proteins • crop protection • crop nutrition • yield enhancement technologies • machine learning and artificial intelligence • precision agriculture • fertilizer optimization • novel chemistry • gene discovery

## ACCOLADES



Our AgTech practice is one of the top seven practices in the world, consistently recognized in the Agribusiness chapter of **Chambers Global**, a guide delivering insight and analysis on the global legal profession that is unrivalled in its reach and depth.



The 2024 edition of **Best Law Firms**® has recognized Smith Anderson as a leading firm in a total of 48 practice areas, including Private Funds/Hedge Funds Law, Banking and Finance Law and Venture Capital Law.



**Chambers USA** recognizes Smith Anderson's Corporate/M&A and Banking & Finance practices and its lawyers as among the best with a total of 11 lawyers recognized within these practices.