

VAN OSDOL



MAGRUDER PC

As Seen In ... Forbes, November 12, 2007

Small Businesses, Like People, Need Estate Planning

The venerable Kansas City firm of Van Osdol & Magruder, P.C. is pioneering the practice of small-business estate planning. This comes from a realization that small businesses not only are like people, they are people.

"Counseling a small business should naturally involve estate planning," says Robert M. Beachy, firm president. "A business owner's estate plan is a factor all the way through our relationship, up through the point of developing an exit strategy for an owner's retirement and ultimate death, and the passing along of the business or its assets."

Van Osdol, in existence for more than 65 years, has long had an excellent reputation as a boutique firm with its own small-business ambience. It currently has 13 lawyers. Beachy has been with the firm as an attorney since 1973 and has been president of the Kansas City Estate Planning Society. He is recognized for his imaginative solutions to difficult problems and was named an "Outstanding Lawyer of America" in 2003 and one of Missouri's "Super Lawyers" for the past several years. His practice emphasizes health care law, business and corporate law, and estate planning to help small (and midsized) businesses plan their needs.

"In 1971, when I began clerking here, I realized immediately we are a small business and we understand what it's like for small-business owners," he says. "At the time, we had a very strong reputation in estate planning and we had business representation.



The Van Osdol Magruder Team of Attorneys.
See www.vomer.com for more details.

"As time has gone along, we have learned how those things should coalesce so we can do an ever better job of representing small-business owners."

Team Approach Is Stressed

Van Osdol practices a team approach to helping its small-business clients. In fact, every client is assigned at least two attorneys who stay apprised of their needs. Other staff attorneys, as well as other specialists such as insurance agents, appraisers and accountants, become involved as appropriate.

"From the beginning of our relationship, we have in mind the estate-planning issues that will affect a client much later," Beachy says. "We have to make sure there is some plan to protect a business if something happens to the business owner.

"Small-business estate planning has become a core concept for us, and we also have excellent litigators to represent our clients' interests in courts of all kinds."

An Ideal Small Business

The ultimate goal, Beachy says, is for Van Osdol's clients to have lives as good — both as successful businesses and as people — as its own attorneys have. As he sees it, the attorneys reap the benefits of working at an ideal small business.

"We have quite a few lawyers who have worked here and nowhere else," he says. "We've only had two partners leave in the 36 years I've been here. We like each other. We have a good time practicing law. We find great satisfaction in providing the best service for our clients and also allowing time for family and community."

Practice Areas

Business:

- Estate Planning
- General Business/Corporate
- Health Law
- Intellectual Property
- Labor and Employment
- Non-Profits and Charities
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Management
- Taxation
- Trust and Probate Administration
- Unfair Competition
- Formation

Litigation:

- Commercial
- Commercial Collection
- Construction
- Contractual Disputes
- Criminal Defense
(federal and state)
- Employment Discrimination
- Fraud/Misrepresentation
- Health Care Litigation
(civil and criminal)
- Personal Injury
- Probate
- Workers' Compensation