



VMAIL

A SERVICE OF VANDERGINST LAW



WELCOME TO VMAIL

Happy New Year, folks!

We at VanDerGinst Law are wishing you a healthy and happy new year!

As always, if you have been injured in an accident that wasn't your fault, please contact us! We are happy to set up a free consultation.

-The Team at VanDerGinst Law

FIRM NEWS

We are excited for a new year at VanDerGinst Law and a better 2021.

RECALLS

In the news, Target announced a **recall** of 480,000 infant rompers and children's swimsuits.

CONTACT US

Call 833-900-8529 or email info@vlaw.com

FIRM NEWS

Dennis VanDerGinst Featured in December Issue of Iowa Trial Lawyer

Meet Dennis VanDerGinst



By Andrew Martens
Deputy Executive Director
Iowa Association for Justice

Dennis VanDerGinst was the first in his family to go to college. Law school would never have crossed his mind if not for competitive college friends who paid his LSAT fees on a bet that he couldn't score as high as they had. That bet led to a scholarship to DePaul University College of Law in Chicago, and now a 30-plus year career as a trial advocate.

VanDerGinst Law, is headquartered in the Quad Cities, with offices in Chicago, Cedar Rapids, and Des Moines, and more offices planned. The COVID-19 pandemic may have slowed the pace of case resolution, but it has allowed Dennis' team to refocus on their plans for growth. "Defense attorneys have been sitting on files, which has given us a chance to catch up on outstanding discovery, and things of that nature, but it has also given us a chance to bring on and train new people, and incorporate a new case management system," Dennis says.

The firm employs 60 people from Iowa and Illinois, including 11 practicing attorneys. Their exclusive focus is plaintiffs work, handling personal injury and

with his wife, Deana. These days, Dennis' sole professional focus is the firm, though the same entrepreneurial spirit that has driven his firm's growth has led to a host of business ventures over the years. Most notably, Dennis started and ran MeggiHumu, a successful yellow piggy-bank-turned-website marketing company that developed and maintained thousands of websites, including several law firm and legal association websites. He sold that company in 2012. That endeavor had consumer benefits for his law practice, allowing his firm to be early adopters of focus groups and online mock trials.

Community and charitable outreach projects are part of the culture at VanDerGinst Law with a focus on helping the injured, infirm, elderly, children, military personnel and veterans, teachers, first responders and healthcare workers. In fact, this year the firm paid persons who had been furloughed or laid-off due to the Coronavirus outbreak, to manufacture face masks, which were then donated to local hospitals and freeride healthcare workers. The firm purchased ten thousand dollar worth of gift cards from local restaurants that were adversely impacted by the pandemic, and gave those gift cards to families who had children facing the loss of a non-traditional and day care due to school closures. Dennis was also the single biggest donor to IAJ's Justice In Debt initiative, with a yearlong focus of supporting the Food Bank of Iowa. Up until a couple years ago, the firm hosted an annual party to benefit various local charities. They call it the VanDerGinst Holiday Bash. The bash incorporated donors and patients, with participants competing to raise the most money for charities. The event attracted celebrity talent such as Mario Lopez (of Saved by the Bell fame) and Jason London (of Dead and Confused fame). The holiday bash contest participants were often singing actors or models, which prompted Dennis to found and run a talent agency, called Spirit Agency, for a

number of years. It was around this time that Dennis was approached by a production company to do a reality show. With the urging of his friend and former client, Frank Fritz, (Davenport antique collector of American Pickers fame), Dennis agreed to explore the proposal. The idea went as far as filming some of the content for a pilot episode, with an offer for a guaranteed season. But the production company had sharply diverging ideas about the direction of the show so Dennis decided to withdraw from the venture. "We anticipated the focus to be on the multiple charitable efforts we run (university and also on the good work we do as attorneys," Dennis recalls. "Instead, I got the sense the show was looking to portray a stereotypical viewpoint of trial lawyers, which would do us all more harm than good. I didn't want to be part of that. But it was fun, and it was fascinating to see how these things come together."

Today, Dennis is at the point in his career where he feels he has the time and flexibility to serve the profession. He is in his second year as an at-large member of the IAJ Board of Governors, and has been active on the association's CLE committee, helping to plan the recent Annual Convention. Years ago, Dennis served a few terms on the board of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association. "I've really enjoyed being on the Iowa board. The structure has allowed us to get to know each other well, and there are opportunities for those of us outside of Des Moines to participate in a meaningful way, and to get to know practitioners from other parts of the state," Dennis says.

I asked Dennis what advice he would have for new trial lawyers entering the practice area. He was quick to say, "Dive in! You'll find some along the way, but don't be afraid to make mistakes. I would rather someone make a decision and go, than undergo paralysis by analysis. If you make the wrong call you can fix it along the way, and you'll learn." He stressed early trial experience as

essential in developing confidence and skills. He started at a Chicago criminal defense firm in law school called Elliot Samuels, and continued for a couple years after graduating. He was able to try state and federal cases almost immediately. He transitioned then to an insurance defense firm, which provided a glimpse of how they do things on the other side of



Dennis VanDerGinst of VanDerGinst Law in the Quad Cities.

the table, but also provided a lot of trial experience. "I bet I tried as many, or more, cases in my first 7-10 years of practice as I've tried in my last 20-25. That was incredibly valuable in honing my craft. Whether you're actually getting in there and trying cases, or you're doing focus groups and mock trials, or you're attending CLEs with really good speakers, you just have to dive in."

Dennis VanDerGinst was featured in the December issue of the Iowa Association for Justice's magazine, Iowa Trial Lawyer. You can read it below or by clicking the link. Thank you to Andrew Mertens, who wrote the article.

Read the article by clicking below.

[Read More](#)

Spread the Love with VanDerGinst Law

#SpreadTheLove *with*



A call for donations for those in need.

We've all been through a tough year, and it's time to come together, give back, and support those in need in our community. Learn more at vlaw.com/spreadthelove.

We've all been through a tough year, and it's time to come together, give back, and support those who are in need in our community.

This year, we want you to "Spread the Love with VanDerGinst Law."

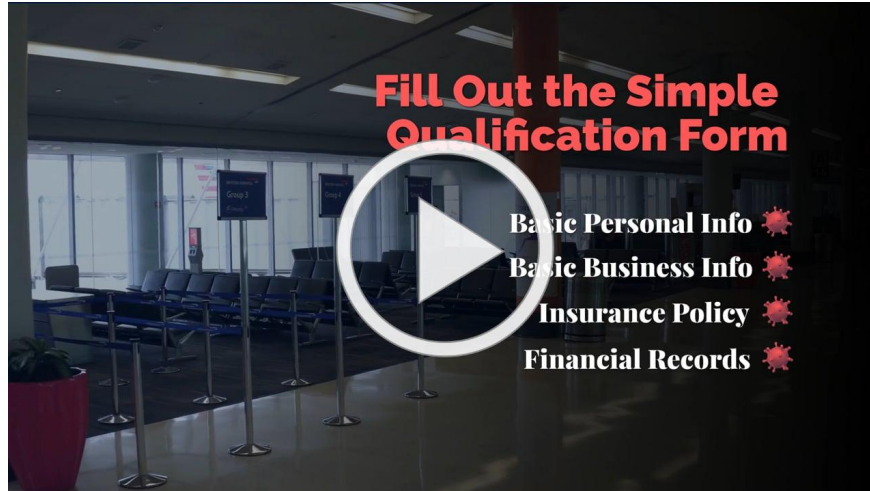
We are partnering with an organization in each of our markets that gives back to those who need it most in our communities. We will be hosting a donation drive at each location where you will be able to bring in new, unused items to aid veterans and those suffering after the 2020 Iowa derecho.

How will you spread the love in your community?

Learn more about how to donate by clicking the button below.

[Learn More](#)

COVID-19 & Iowa Derecho Business Interruption Claims



COVID-19 Business Interruption Claims

VanDerGinst Law is partnering with Andrew D. Schneider, Esq. to provide our clients with analyses of their business interruption economic loss claims.

YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION IF YOU ANSWER “YES” TO THESE TWO QUESTIONS:

- Are you a business owner?
- Has your business been forced to shut down or been otherwise restricted in its ability to generate income due to COVID-19 OR due to the 2020 Iowa derecho storm?

If you answered “yes” you may be entitled to recover money to compensate for lost revenue you have sustained since March 2020 (COVID-19) or since the 2020 derecho.



2020 Iowa Derecho Business Interruption Claims

Business owners often have insurance claims available through their own business insurance to compensate for lost income due to shutdowns and restrictions which were put in place by various authorities in efforts to control the spread of the Coronavirus or by losses due to the 2020 Iowa derecho. You may have that coverage and not even be aware.

Filing a claim can be complicated and intimidating. Insurance companies are not in the business of losing money and making it easy for you to collect on a claim. **THAT IS WHERE WE CAN HELP!**

We can evaluate your situation for **FREE** to determine if you have a claim for compensation. If so, we will negotiate on your behalf to get you every penny to which you are entitled!

If we don't get you compensation you do not owe us a penny.

[CLICK HERE for COVID-19 Business Interruption Claims](#)

[CLICK HERE for 2020 Iowa Derecho Storm Business Interruption Claims](#)

FEATURED ARTICLES

CHECK OUT THE LATEST ARTICLES FROM VANDERGINST LAW



Conflicts of Interest: Why Lawyers Can't Represent All Passengers

If you are the victim in an accident and believe you and your passenger will be on the same side, you may not know that there are instances where you may be at least partially at-fault as the driver.

[LEARN MORE](#)



How to Sue Someone: Your Guide to Personal Injury Lawsuits

While most injury cases settle outside of court, if you incurred medical expenses, lost wages, property, or other losses, you might still be wondering how to sue someone to be reimbursed for what you lost.

[LEARN MORE](#)



The Importance of Preserving Evidence After a Personal Injury Accident

The last thing on someone's mind when they get into an accident is thinking about their potential legal case and preserving evidence.

The priority is, of course, on getting the care you need after an accident.

However, there are important things you should do to preserve evidence if you are in any type of accident.

[LEARN MORE](#)



How Do I Get a Nexus Letter for VA Disability?

By proving that your disabilities are service-connected, and to what degree, you will be able to better prove your case to get VA Disability payments. A nexus letter explains the connection between your time in the service and your current disabilities.

[LEARN MORE](#)

TESTIMONIALS
REAL PEOPLE, REAL STORIES.





"VanDerGinst has the experience and expertise to focus on...personal injury. They fight for you, and unless they win there's no attorney fees."

Dr. Benjamin Deig, Peoria Spine & Sport

Loved your experience with us?

Leave us a review on [Google](#) or [Facebook](#)!

REFERRALS

WE APPRECIATE YOUR TRUST IN US!

Thank you to those who have referred clients to us! We appreciate your trust in us!

Adrian Deering | Amanda Jacobs | Anamaria De Avila | Barry Tucker | Brad Cunningham | Candy Vonmaur | Christie Wilkins | Dr. Chris Beckwith | Dr. Logan Jenkins | Dr. Mark Havertape | Erica Phelps | Graham Lee | Jeff Stuhr | Joe Esparza | Kimberly Duncan | Lerner & Rowe | Mark White | Mary Beckhart | Nicole Halen | Rodney Smith | Ron Christ

If you referred a client and we missed you this month, don't worry! Please let us know if you have any questions and so that we can thank you properly for your referral!

If You've Been Injured, We'd Be Honored to Help.

Have you or a loved one suffered an injury, illness, or death on the job or due to negligence? VanDerGinst Law can help. Your consultation is always FREE. We forward all costs to pursue your injury case and there is never an attorney fee unless we win.

Contact us at 833-900-8529 or www.vlaw.com.



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