

# REINHART BOERNER VAN DEUREN, S.C.

## Get to Know Attorney Jennifer D'Amato

BY JULIA JAEGERBERG



**FOUNDED IN MILWAUKEE IN 1894**, Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, s.c., is a full-service, business-oriented law firm that has grown steadily over the past 127 years. While Reinhart has now become one of the nation's top-200 law firms, southeastern Wisconsin remains home to the majority of its 200 attorneys who serve clients throughout the United States and internationally.

Jennifer D'Amato serves as the chair of the firm's Trusts and Estates Practice. "We try to navigate the intersection between business and family to help our high-net-worth clients not only build and preserve wealth, but also preserve the legacy of the family and business," says Jennifer.

### Trusts and estates practice

The firm counsels individuals and corporations on matters across the continuum of trust law—from business succession planning to estate and tax planning to estate and trust administration.

"Our attorneys are accomplished at guiding clients through the intricate stages of a business transition or personal matter because we take the time to listen to and account for all of the clients' goals before taking the appropriate actions for each individual circumstance," explains Jennifer. "We help family businesses succeed not only for their owners, but also for their employees and the broader community."

Jennifer joined Reinhart in 1993 after practicing law for several years in Chicago. For more than 30 years, she's counseled wealthy individuals and businesses. "I began my career at Reinhart as an associate, ultimately serving on our Board of Directors for 12 years until recently stepping down from that role in June 2021 to focus on my practice," explains Jennifer.

### Providing clients with peace of mind

Early in her career, Jennifer was tangentially involved in an estate administration matter that was very messy. After that case, she was hooked on the combination of high-stakes tax planning and helping family members work together even when there are significant obstacles.

"My goal is to give my clients peace of mind," she says. "It's my job to solve my clients' problems. I work with families over decades to develop complex legacy plans to realize their vision for their families, employees, communities and preferred charities."

Jennifer's clients are her biggest inspiration. "I find estate planning an incredibly rewarding practice area primarily due to the close personal relationships we develop with our clients," notes Jennifer. "In addition, the challenge of estate, gift and generation-skipping planning, and working through family dynamics keeps things interesting." Jennifer's department also gets involved in fiduciary litigation matters when they aren't able to resolve issues without court involvement.

Jennifer enjoys mentoring the firm's younger lawyers to help prepare them to take on leadership roles in the firm and in the community. "I work with younger lawyers to help our clients achieve their goals and to help ensure the lawyers excel in their careers," Jennifer says.

### All work, a little play and giving back

Of course Jennifer and the firm's attorneys take their work seriously and are honored by the trust their clients place in them. But they do try to have fun once in a while! "One of my now-retired partners penned a song where the opening line was: "Probate is like a first date..." says Jennifer. "Whenever our group gets

together socially, this song inevitably comes up and makes us laugh. There are also so many unexpected things that happen with our clients every day. The human element always keeps things interesting. Sometimes I think I should have majored in psychology for my undergraduate degree instead of Renaissance history!"

Jennifer met her husband, Fred, in law school and they recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. Jennifer and Fred have two children. Their son, Samson, recently graduated from college and now lives and works in Manhattan. Their daughter, Sophie, is studying journalism at Northwestern University. "We also have two labs that make working from home difficult!" kids Jennifer. "I'm an avid, but very slow runner, and my husband and I used to travel quite a bit. We're hoping to get back to that at some point."

Jennifer enjoys giving back to her community by helping non-profit organizations, which she does through Reinhart. "I've served on many non-profit Boards over the years, including Children's Hospital Planned Advisory Board, the Planned Giving Counsel of Wisconsin Historical Society, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Planned Giving Counsel, the Planned Giving Committee of the Ephraim Foundation, St. Francis Children's Center and on the Advisory Board for Best Buddies," notes Jennifer. In addition, I've presented to dozens of professional organizations, and taught estate and gift tax law at the University of Wisconsin Law School."

To reach Jennifer D'Amato, call Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren at 414-298-1000 or visit [reinhartlaw.com](http://reinhartlaw.com).



## Chart a Course for Lasting Legacy

Our experienced team of Trusts and Estates attorneys helps high-net-worth clients build and preserve wealth, whether they are actively engaged in business or enjoying the rewards it has produced.

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Boerner Van Deuren s.c. Attorneys at Law

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