

Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c. Mourns Loss of Chairman Emeritus Richard A. Van Deuren

MILWAUKEE – Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c. mourns the loss of Chairman Emeritus Richard A. Van Deuren, who died on December 17, 2017 at 88 years of age.

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Born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Mr. Van Deuren graduated *cum laude* in 1951 from Harvard University where he went on to earn his juris doctor degree in 1954 and was admitted to the State Bar of Wisconsin that same year.

Following two years of U.S. Army service, Mr. Van Deuren joined the firm in 1956 along with fellow associates Allen Rieselbach and Richard Norris where he quickly rose to become a partner in 1961. Along with Jack Reinhart, Roger Boerner, Allen Rieselbach and Richard Norris, he led the firm through a period of unprecedented growth that culminated in it becoming one of Wisconsin's largest law firms.

In addition to serving as Chairman of the firm, Mr. Van Deuren later became the firm's first CEO, a position he held for many years.

Mr. Van Deuren was an advocate of specialization versus generalization in the practice of law, and he guided the firm to embrace specialty law practices long before many of its contemporaries. Early in his career, he was already doing ground-breaking work in the area of employee benefits, and his counsel on pension and profit sharing plans - starting with his innovative work for Marine Bank - was widely adopted by leading corporations.

Mr. Van Deuren was a pivotal figure in the formation of what became known as Taft-Hartley plans, establishing the firm's ongoing dominance in this area of the law and founding the firm's Employee Benefits Department. This also led to his role as founder and first President of the Association of Private Pension and Welfare Plans in Washington, D.C.

Following the passage of the Small Business Investment Act in 1958, Mr. Van Deuren was also instrumental in the formation of one of the nation's first Small Business Investment Corporations and went on to develop a reputation for mergers and acquisitions that the firm holds to this day. He practiced extensively in the field of corporate and business law and represented many corporations, venture capital, and private investment banking firms over the course of his



career.

He was consistently ranked as one of the nation's top corporate lawyers in both *Best Lawyers in America* and *America's Leading Business Lawyers*. Mr. Van Deuren was also awarded *Martindale-Hubbell's* highest peer review rating for legal ability and ethical standards. In addition to the State Bar of Wisconsin, Mr. Van Deuren was a member of the Milwaukee, District of Columbia and American Bar Associations.

Mr. Van Deuren was an Advisory Director and Chairman of the Attorneys' Committee, International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans and served as Co-Chairman of the American Bar Association Subcommittee on Pensions. He was the President of the Harvard Club of Wisconsin.

Mr. Van Deuren served as a Director at Allen Edmonds Corporation, Arandell Corporation, Generac Power Systems, Inc., and Rexworks, Inc. He was also a member of the Advisory Board at Calder Capital Partners.

He was an Advisory Chairman of the Medical College of Wisconsin and was instrumental in the Medical College of Wisconsin's 1978 move to newly expanded facilities on the campus of the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center.

"Words cannot express the enormous impact Dick Van Deuren had on our law firm," said Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren CEO Jerome M. Janzer. "Without Dick's immeasurable contributions and visionary leadership, we would not be the firm we are today. He was a tremendous attorney, partner and friend, and we will miss him dearly."

Today, Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren carries on Mr. Van Deuren's legacy as an industry-leading business law firm with more than 200 lawyers who continue to honor his principles of exceptional client service fueled by unmatched understanding, partnership and innovation.

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