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PRACTICE AREAS

Alternate Dispute Resolution
Construction Law and Litigation
Insurance Coverage and Indemnity Law
No-Fault and Motor Vehicle Litigation
Premises Liability
Product Liability
Professional Liability
Transportation, Trucking, and Highway Liability

DONALD C. BROWNELL is a Shareholder with Vandevveer Garzia and focuses his practice on the defense of civil litigation matters throughout the State of Michigan. Mr. Brownell currently serves as the President of Vandevveer Garzia and is the Co-Managing Partner of the firm. Mr. Brownell has been an attorney with Vandevveer Garzia since 1993.

Mr. Brownell is lead counsel of a team of attorneys handling construction claims, premises liability claims, product claims, professional negligence matters as well as transportation, trucking and highway liability matters. Mr. Brownell is also involved in the defense of several insurance carriers involving catastrophic First Party Automobile claims. Mr. Brownell also represents a diverse group of clients in commercial disputes. Mr. Brownell has experience in lead paint claims, mold claims, food borne illness claims, product design and manufacturing defect claims, and real estate disputes.

Mr. Brownell is also actively involved in risk management for several clients, drafting policy and procedures manuals to address specific clients issues and needs. Mr. Brownell has also led a team of attorneys in drafting new policy language for insurance carriers to address new statutes and case law.

As a trial lawyer Mr. Brownell has defended clients in the State Courts of Michigan, the Federal Courts and has been admitted pro hac vice in numerous other states to defend clients when needed. Mr. Brownell has tried numerous cases to verdict, including catastrophic injury matters, product liability matters, premises liability matters, construction matters as well as insurance coverage claims. Mr. Brownell has also appeared before the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati and has significant appellate experience.

Mr. Brownell graduated from Central Michigan University in 1990. At Central Michigan he received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, majoring in Material and Logistics Management. Mr. Brownell graduated from The Detroit College of Law, cum laude, in May of 1993 and became a member of the Michigan Bar. During law school, he received an American Jurisprudence Award for excellence in the study of equity. He also received the William P. Finch Book Award for excellence in the study of both Advocacy I and Advocacy II.

Mr. Brownell is currently a member of the State Bar of Michigan, including the Litigation and Negligence Sections, the Defense Research Institute, the American Bar Association, the Oakland County Bar Association, the Michigan Defense Trial Council, and serves as a Case Evaluator in Wayne County. Mr. Brownell also routinely conducts seminars for various clients and national insurance carriers. Mr. Brownell has also been a speaker for The Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Michigan.