

## Forethoughts

This *Insights* issue provides thought leadership with regard to the financial planning, economic analysis, forensic accounting, and valuation aspects of family law. The discussions in this *Insights* issue consider practical procedures for legal counsel working with a valuation specialist, the differences between a calculation engagement and a valuation engagement, the performance of valuation review engagements, and the identification and valuation of goodwill—and of intellectual property.

Family law counsel and parties to a marital dissolution often deal with complex issues, including the equitable division of the marital estate assets, the valuation of personal and professional goodwill, the valuation of family-owned businesses and professional practices, the valuation of professional licenses and intellectual property, the analysis of reasonable alimony/spousal maintenance payments, and the analysis of reasonable compensation for family-owned company and professional practice owners.

Family law statutes and judicial precedent vary from state to state. Further, many of these statutory and judicial guidelines provide conflicting or unclear guidance with regard to the property distribution of a marital estate. This is why legal counsel should provide legal instructions and legal directions to valuation analysts and forensic accountants in any family law engagement.

Each discussion presented in this *Insights* issue was developed by valuation analysts with significant experience in family law matters. Willamette Management Associates analysts regularly provide forensic analysis and valuation consulting services relating to family law matters. Our valuation services include (1) the development and issuance of fair value and fair market value opinions, (2) the independent review and rebuttal of opposing expert valuation reports, (3) forensic analyses, and (4) reasonableness of compensation analyses. In addition, our analysts provide testifying expert and related litigation support services.

## About the Editor



### Justin M. Nielsen

Justin Nielsen is a vice president of the firm, and he is located in our Portland, Oregon, office. His practice includes valuation engagements for the firm such as income tax planning and compliance engagements, employee stock ownership plan administration engagements, and gift and estate tax planning engagements. In addition, Justin specializes in matters related to shareholder/commercial litigation and family law. He has extensive experience providing business valuation, financial advisory, and forensic accounting services in a family law context.

Prior to joining Willamette Management Associates, Justin was a managing consultant for LECG and Bates Group, LLC, in Lake Oswego, Oregon. Justin routinely provides forensic accounting services, securities litigation and business valuation services, and directly performed business, stock, and intangible asset valuation services for transaction pricing and struc-

turing (merger, acquisition, and restructuring), forensic analysis, fraud, and dispute resolution (including dissenting shareholder appraisal actions), taxation planning and compliance (federal income, gift, and estate tax), employee corporate ownership, strategic information and planning, regulatory compliance, bankruptcy and reorganization, and fiduciary advice and financial counseling.

Justin has testified on numerous occasions in Financial Industry Regulatory Authority/Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association arbitration forums related to securities damages.

Justin holds a bachelor of science degree in finance from Northern Arizona University and a masters degree in business administration (finance emphasis) from the University of New Mexico. He is a certified valuation analyst (CVA) granted by the National Association of Certified Valuators and Analysts. Justin currently serves on the Dress For Success Oregon advisory board, as well as on the Dress For Success Oregon finance committee.

Justin applies his experience and expertise in both business valuation and forensic services to assist legal counsel and parties to family law matters.