



Steve W. Browne

Partner

Meara Welch Browne, P.C.

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General Bio

As partner of Meara Welch Browne, P.C., Steve Browne directs all aspects of annual corporate financial statement audits, pension, and health and welfare benefit plan audits. He has vast experience in the telecommunications, commodities, manufacturing and distribution, information technology, governmental and not-for-profit, textiles, construction, banking, health care, reinsurance and insurance agency, professional services, mortgage banking, agribusiness and brokerage industries.

In addition to his auditing work, Steve also handles highly complex forensic and fraud investigations. As of late 2019, he has incurred more than 15,000 hours directing numerous litigation and valuation engagements involving extensive preparation or analysis of damage calculation models, contract disputes and breaches, corporate veil issues, bankruptcies, and business and asset valuation models.

Steve has also served as liaison between computer programmers and operations management in developing system business rules/logic and implementing financial reporting requirements. In addition, he has directed dozens of fraud investigations involving extensive forensic accounting procedures, conducting interviews with suspected perpetrators and other client personnel and coordination of efforts and evidence with law enforcement authorities.

Steve is regularly called upon to serve as an expert witness for the federal government and the attorneys general of Kansas and Missouri, as well as several Fortune 500 companies and privately held organizations. He testifies on issues ranging from economic damage claims and business valuation to white collar crime and fraud.



A previous speaker and instructor for the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, he has instructed dozens of continuing professional education courses for accountants and lawyers.

Steve received his Bachelor of Science in finance and accounting from Kansas State University and his master's degree in economics from the University of Missouri – Kansas City.

Education

- Kansas State University, Bachelor of Science in finance
- Kansas State University, Bachelor of Science in accounting
- University of Missouri – Kansas City, Master of Arts in economics

Certifications

- Certified Public Accountant (Licensed in Missouri and Kansas)
- Accredited in Business Valuation (ABV)
- Certified Information Technology Professional (CITP)
- Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF)
- Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE)

Community Involvement

- The Midwest Innocence Project, Treasurer
- Highlands Ranch Homeowners Association, President
- Volunteer for Restart (Kansas City homeless shelter)
- Volunteer for Christmas in October (Kansas City program for building houses for the homeless)
- Conducted pro-bono services for Cradles and Crayons (Daycare for disabled & disadvantaged children)
- Organizer/participant in community disaster relief efforts (Greensburg Kansas, Joplin Missouri)

Mergers & Acquisitions

- Incurred over 5,000 hours directing due diligence work on over thirty five (35) acquisitions, ranging in size from \$600,000 to \$70,000,000.
- Performed valuation services related to acquisition pricing and FASB 141R and 142.
- Assisted clients with managing the integration of acquired entities into the corporate structure and culture.

Instructor

- Mr. Browne has served as a speaker and instructor for the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and has instructed dozens of courses for continuing professional education for accountants and lawyers.

Forensic & Fraud Investigation, Business Valuation and Litigation Resolution

- Served as expert witness in Federal and State courts in cases involving economic damage claims and business valuation issues
- Retained by Federal and State governments in white collar crime and fraud cases
- Served as Federal Court appointed business monitor in white collar crime cases
- Incurred over 15,000 hours directing numerous litigation and valuation engagements involving extensive preparation or analysis of:
 - Damage calculation models ◦ Contract disputes and breaches ◦ Corporate veil issues ◦ Bankruptcies
 - Business and asset valuation models
- Authored and managed all procedures regarding the administration of three (3) multi-million dollar class action law suit settlements.
- Directed dozens of fraud investigations involving:
 - Extensive forensic accounting procedures
 - Conducting interviews with suspected perpetrators and other client personnel
 - Coordination of efforts and evidence with law enforcement authorities

Audit & Accounting

- Directs all aspects of annual corporate financial statement audits. Experience includes the following industries: telecommunications, commodities, manufacturing and distribution, information technology, governmental & not for profit, A-133, textiles, construction, banking, health care, reinsurance and insurance agency, professional services, mortgage banking, agribusiness, and brokerage.
- Directs all aspects of annual pension and health and welfare benefit plan audits.
- Incurred over 3,000 hours supervising firm and client personnel on computer system upgrades and installation projects. Served as liaison between



computer programmers and operations management in developing system business rules/logic and implementing financial reporting requirements.

- Extensive experience with data extraction and analysis software (ACL).