



# Law Firm Finds Reliable Digital Forensics Partner

Strong digital forensics work can deliver wins in the courtroom—or produce settlements before cases get that far. Weinhardt attorneys count on Pratum to produce evidence in cases from small civil litigation to corporate investigations.



## Building a Strong Defense

The Weinhardt Law Firm is a team of five lawyers, handling civil and criminal trials and appeals, and internal investigations. They are a small, boutique-style, firm and Weinhardt is one of the few firms in the State of Iowa with a sophisticated, white-collar criminal defense practice. The firm acts in complex cases, especially cases that are likely to go to trial.

Weinhardt attorneys also frequently handle cases that need to be kept out of the public eye. Companies may hire Weinhardt to do an internal investigation when they believe an employee is conducting fraud or other suspicious activity. This can involve gathering large amounts of internal documents or examining text messages and emails on a smartphone. No matter the scope, these sorts of situations require extra caution in order to be discrete.



THE WEINHARDT LAW FIRM

**Company:** The Weinhardt Law Firm

**Industry:** Legal

**Established:** 2011

**Pratum Services:** Digital Forensics



“Having responsiveness and understanding of what lawyers need is important, but I’ve also found Pratum is very versatile. Pratum can handle big cases, but there’s also individual client cases that larger Digital Forensics firms won’t do because they consider it ‘too small’. We found Pratum equally committed to the projects, regardless of the size.”

David Fautsch, Partner, Weinhardt Law Firm

## Bringing in Digital Forensics Experts

When Weinhardt starts investigating a case, they want to make sure they have access to every piece of evidence that could help win the trial or prove a point before it gets that far. Many law firms rely on Digital Forensics experts to get the information they need. Digital Forensics is a branch of forensic science encompassing the recovery and investigation of material found in digital devices.



These findings provide objective facts that can help explain what happened during a security or criminal incident, when it occurred, and who was involved. For legal cases, this sort of evidence is becoming more and more common, as many people are active on some sort of online platform or digital device. Digital Forensics evidence can be found in numerous places, and years later. This is where Pratum has been a crucial partner for Weinhardt. Pratum's team of Digital Forensics experts has helped Weinhardt with cases ranging from small civil litigation to large corporate investigations.

## Evidence That Saves Cases — and Lives

One case that sticks out to Weinhardt Partner, David Fautsch, involved a client who was facing high stakes civil and criminal allegations. When Pratum's team of Digital Forensics experts were able to gain access to text messages of a key witness, Weinhardt was able to convince the attorneys for the other side to drop the case right away. "A collection of text messages over a 3-year time span was the difference between what would have been a public and costly case and a case that discretely vanished. So that kind of evidence makes all the difference in the world," said Fautsch.

Digital Forensics is especially important for corporate investigations that happen before a case goes to court. When a business leader believes an employee may be doing something suspicious, Pratum's Digital Forensics team can find evidence without disrupting business.

"Frequently when a client comes to us, they believe something has happened, but they don't know how to prove it. If we're able to partner with a Digital Forensics firm that clearly knows what they're doing, clients develop a sense of trust and confidence in the process," said Fautsch. That sort of reliable, trust building evidence can create a better reputation for Weinhardt, which means continued success for the firm.

## Importance of Teamwork

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Having access to all digital evidence in a case is important for any legal team. Rather than limiting themselves to only large Digital Forensics firms, Weinhardt has found a partner they can trust in Pratum. Working together to find every piece of evidence in each case will help them protect businesses and individuals within the justice system.