

## CLIENT SUCCESS STORY:

# Litigation Support

Discount Retailer Impacted by Arson and COVID-19

## BACKGROUND:

Meaden & Moore was engaged to support a legal team in a case involving insurance fraud related to a business interruption claim. The case revolved around a discount retailer whose building was destroyed by fire. While the fire was determined to be arson, no direct evidence tied the businessowner to the event. Complicating the matter, the event occurred in April 2020, early in the COVID-19 pandemic, when businesses across the nation faced economic uncertainty.

## THE CHALLENGES

- The businessowner claimed a significant spike in revenue due to COVID-19, asserting the loss of over \$1 million per month, leading to a \$12 million claim under the insurance policy's 12-month indemnity period.
- Financial records presented by the businessowner contained red flags, including inflated revenue and commingled records with a similar operation run by a family member in a neighboring city.
- The case required an in-depth review of financial records and the development of a robust strategy to challenge the inflated claims in court.

## AT A GLANCE

### Challenges:

- Inflated Claims
- Red Flags in Financials
- Complex Financial Review

### Benefits:

- Early Engagement
- Seamless Collaboration
- Clear Data Presentation
- Successful Outcome

*“At Meaden & Moore, we pride ourselves on navigating complex disputes with precision and integrity. Our team’s ability to provide clear, objective analysis and maintain strong client relationships ensures trust and confidence throughout the litigation process.”*

— Michael Vannucci  
Partner  
Meaden & Moore

## SOLUTIONS PROVIDED

### Comprehensive Financial Analysis:

- Meaden & Moore meticulously examined the financial records, uncovering significant discrepancies. Independent research revealed that the pre-fire spike in sales was fabricated. The team identified evidence of intentional inflation and commingling of records, directly undermining the credibility of the claim.

### Collaboration with Legal Team:

- Frequent meetings with the legal team ensured seamless communication and alignment. Meaden & Moore worked closely with the attorneys to design a precise line of questioning for the trial, anticipating possible responses and strategically crafting follow-ups to expose inconsistencies.

### Simplification of Complex Data:

- The team translated complex financial findings into clear and actionable insights, using visual aids like graphs and charts to present the story embedded in the numbers. This approach ensured the judge and jury could easily understand the issues at hand.

### Expert Testimony and Court Preparation:

- During the trial, Meaden & Moore's experts provided testimony that was both factual and relatable, effectively presenting the financial evidence. The team's preparation allowed them to counter the businessowner's arguments with irrefutable data.

## RESULTS AND IMPACT

### Outcome:

- The judge dismissed the case, citing the overwhelming evidence of fraud presented by Meaden & Moore. The businessowner was later charged criminally, further validating the accuracy and depth of the team's analysis.

### Client Benefits:

- Early engagement allowed Meaden & Moore to develop a comprehensive strategy, contributing to the case's success.
- The collaboration ensured that the legal team was well-prepared for depositions and trial, with a clear understanding of the financial evidence.
- The use of visual storytelling through financial data simplified the complexities, ensuring the case's key points resonated with the court.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

### Early Engagement is Crucial:

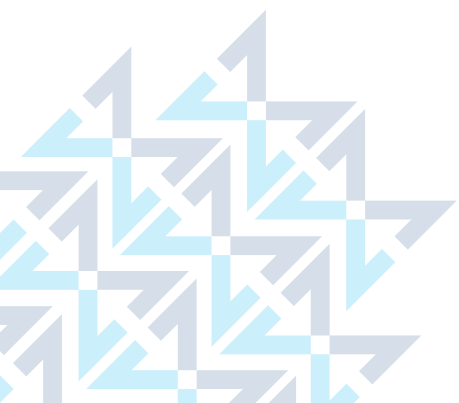
- Meaden & Moore's involvement at the earliest stages enabled the legal team to proactively address key issues, ensuring a strong case strategy.

### Collaboration Drives Success:

- Seamless communication between Meaden & Moore and the legal team resulted in a coordinated approach that was instrumental in achieving a favorable outcome.

### Simplifying the Complex:

- Meaden & Moore's expertise in distilling intricate financial data into understandable insights was a cornerstone of the case's success.



## LOOKING AHEAD

Meaden & Moore continues to invest in cutting-edge technology and tools to enhance its litigation support capabilities. By remaining agile and efficient, the firm ensures it can deliver exceptional results, even in the most complex financial disputes.

## WHY CHOOSE MEADEN & MOORE?

- **Expertise:** Certified professionals with extensive experience in forensic accounting and fraud examination.
- **Strategic Insight:** Beyond numbers, the team provides strategic guidance that adds significant value to legal cases.
- **Commitment to Collaboration:** A culture of teamwork ensures clients receive comprehensive support throughout the litigation process.

Involving Meaden & Moore early helps lay a solid foundation for building stronger cases and achieving favorable outcomes for clients. Contact us today to learn how our expertise can support your litigation needs.

### EXPERIENCE THAT MATTERS

For over a century, Meaden & Moore has developed expertise and resources to provide the highest quality assurance, tax, and business consulting services to organizations globally. Our expertise ranges from being a leader in the forensic and investigative accounting field to specialties that provide advisory services at the corporate and individual level.



### Michael T. Vannucci, CPA, CFE, CFF

Partner, Investigative Accounting and Litigation Support

✉ [mvannucci@meadenmoore.com](mailto:mvannucci@meadenmoore.com)

### EXPERT PERSPECTIVE

“Throughout my career, I’ve always been driven by a passion for helping my clients succeed. I truly believe in taking the time to understand their unique challenges and goals, which allows me to provide solutions that are not only effective but also aligned with their long-term vision. Building strong, trusting relationships is key to my approach, and I take pride in being a trusted advisor who my clients can rely on for honest, thoughtful guidance. For me, it’s not just about the work — it’s about making a meaningful difference in the success of the businesses and people I work with.”

— Michael Vannucci