

Diversity Matters

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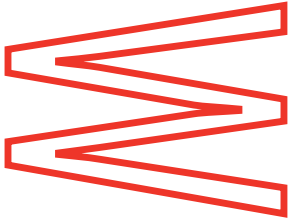
Fall 2014

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Editor's Note

by [Nancy A. Vincent](#)



September 15 to October 15 was National Hispanic Heritage Month, the month each year during which we celebrate histories, cultures and contributions of Americans whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. September 15 is significant, as it is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The other notable dates that fall within the 30-day period are September 16 and 18, independence anniversaries for Mexico and Chile, respectively, and October 12, the anniversary of the day Christopher Columbus arrived in the Americas in 1492. The landing is celebrated as Columbus Day in the United States, as Día de la Raza (Day of the Race) in many countries in Latin America, as Discovery Day in the Bahamas, as Día de la Hispanidad and Fiesta Nacional in Spain, as Día del Respeto a la Diversidad Cultural (Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity) in Argentina, as Día de las Américas (Day of the Americas) in Belize and Uruguay, and as Giornata Nazionale di Cristopher Columbus or Festa Nazionale di Cristoforo Colombo in Italy.

“Hispanic” or “Latino” refers to Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. According to the 2010 census, 50.5 million people or 16 percent of the American population are of Hispanic or Latino origin, up from 35.3 million or 13 percent according to the 2000 census.

In 1968, Congress passed legislation authorizing and requesting the President to issue an annual proclamation designating a week, to include September 15 and 16, as National Hispanic Heritage Week. The first such proclamation was issued by President Lyndon Johnson, stating in part as follows:

Wishing to pay special tribute to the Hispanic tradition, and having in mind the fact that our five Central American neighbors celebrate their Independence Day on the fifteenth of September and the Republic of Mexico on the sixteenth, the Congress by House Joint Resolution 1299, has requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating the week including September 15 and 16 as National Hispanic Heritage Week.

In 1988, Congress amended legislation to establish National Hispanic Heritage Month, requesting and authorizing the President to so designate the 30-day period from September 15 to October 15.

Most recently, President Obama lauded the accomplishments and contributions of Hispanics to American culture and society, in his 2014 National Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation, therein indicating that Hispanics’ hard work and pursuit of the American dream represent the spirit of our nation, in part as follows:

This month’s theme, “*Hispanics: A legacy of history, a present of action and a future of success,*” reminds us of all the ways Hispanics have enriched our Union and shaped our character. From those with roots that trace back generations to those who have just set out in pursuit of the promise of America, they have come to represent the spirit



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Editor's Note , *continued*

of our Nation: that with hard work, you can build a better life for yourself and a better future for your children. Hispanics have served honorably in our Armed Forces, defending the values we hold dear. They have transformed industries with new, innovative ideas. And they have led and inspired movements that have made our Nation more equal and more just.

* * * * *

Hispanics are advancing our economy, improving our communities, and bettering our country. In celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, let us renew our commitment to ensuring ours remains a society where the talents and potential of all its members can be fully realized.

La'Verne Edney

As profiled in the [Jackson Free-Press](#) by Demetrice Sherman
Reprinted with permission



*Photo by Trip Burns,
[Jackson Free-Press](#)*

While growing up in Arcola, Mississippi, attorney La'Verne Edney witnessed firsthand the impact generosity and compassion can have.

Her parents, the late Rev. Theodore Roosevelt Ford and Essie Mae Ford, not only reared Edney and her brothers and sisters, but they opened their home to 11 foster children, two of whom they adopted.

“Watching my parents give back the way they did had a great impact on me. I got an opportunity to see my mom really nourishing and taking care of those kids (who) had nothing when they came to us. That kind of formed, really, my whole life—of at least trying to give back,” she says.

Edney's interest in law began when she watched TV shows such as “Perry Mason” and “Matlock” when she was young. But her early inclination was pushed aside as Edney focused on typing proficiency. In 1988, she obtained her bachelor's degree in secretarial science from Alcorn State University. While working as an administrative assistant at the Mississippi Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning, the attorneys she worked with encouraged her to pursue her dream.

Edney earned her law degree from the Mississippi College School of Law in 1996 and was admitted to the Mississippi Bar the same year. She began her litigation career at Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes, PLLC in Jackson in 1998. In 2009 she took a two-year leave to work as general counsel of the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, a nonprofit that provides legal aid to financially disadvantaged people. “It was the best thing I could have done,” she says of the experience.

In 2011 Edney joined the Jackson office of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, where she is a shareholder. Her trial work primarily focuses on nursing home and medical negligence, and premises liability.

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La'Verne Edney, *continued*

The 40-something Clinton resident has been the recipient of numerous honors including the *Mississippi Business Journal* naming her one of Mississippi's "Fifty Leaders in the Law" in 2012 and being named as Mississippi Women Lawyers Association's Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year in 2011. She has also served on the Mississippi Supreme Court's Task Force for Gender Fairness, and former Gov. Haley Barbour appointed her to the Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee. Edney's commitment to public service extends to local community organizations, and she serves on several boards. "It's really important to stay involved in the community. That's where you get to try to make the difference," she says.

Edney says she is most appreciative of finding success in doing what she loves while remaining active in the community and raising her two sons, E.J., 25, and Jaylon, 17.

"I know where I've come from," she says. "I'm extremely grateful for my life."

Baker Donelson's LGBT Affinity Group

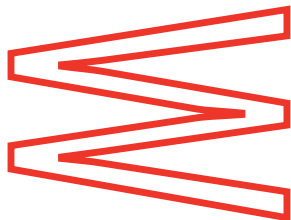
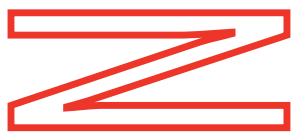
By Heather Gentry



Baker Affinitas, the Firm's affinity group for LGBT interests, includes approximately 50 members, consisting of employees who identify as LGBT as well as straight allies. The purpose of Baker Affinitas is to bolster the inclusiveness of the Firm by focusing on the retention and recruitment of LGBT members

and increasing the number of LGBT members in Firm leadership roles. The members of Baker Affinitas provide mentoring opportunities for LGBT members and advocate for LGBT issues within the Firm and the communities in the Firm's footprint. The Firm's support and involvement in Baker Affinitas includes sponsoring LGBT events in the communities in the Firm's footprint, as well as facilitating the establishment of an LGBT pro bono initiative.

Baker Affinitas is led by [Monica Frois](#), a shareholder in the New Orleans office, and [Linda Peacock](#), a shareholder in the Birmingham office. Peacock and Frois teamed up with the Diversity Committee leaders, including [Mark Baugh](#) and Cheryl Hunt, to kickstart Baker Affinitas last year. In the past few months the Firm has sponsored or participated in a number of related events, including hosting the Human Rights Commission Annual Equality Dinner and Holiday Party events in Nashville; sponsoring Pride festivals in Memphis and Nashville; sponsoring and participating in the Lavender Law career fair; and sponsoring the Pro Bono Publico Awards (a program of the New Orleans/AIDS Task Force.)



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HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN'S CORPORATE EQUALITY INDEX

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Sixth Circuit Upholds Ban On Same-Sex Marriage and Poses the Question: Who Should Decide?

By [Sam Felker](#)



Based on a surprising ruling by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals last month, the validity of state bans on same-sex marriage appears headed to the Supreme Court after all. In a 2-1 decision, the court upheld state laws prohibiting same-sex marriage in Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan, creating a split among the nation’s circuits and virtually assuring the Supreme Court will review the issue. The decision runs counter to recent rulings by the Fourth, Seventh, Ninth and Tenth Circuits which cleared the way for marriages in Virginia, Indiana, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Utah, Idaho, Nevada and other states. The ruling represents a rare defeat for the proponents of same-sex marriage, which is now legal in 32 states, and ends a winning streak of decisions by nearly every Federal Court that had taken up the issue since the Supreme Court decided *Windsor* last year.

The opinion, written by Judge Jeffrey Sutton and joined by Judge Deborah Cook, argues that the electorate and not the courts are in the best position to decide whether same-sex marriages should be allowed. “When the courts do not let the people resolve new social issues like this one, they perpetuate the idea that the heroes in these change events are judges and lawyers,” he wrote. “Better in this instance, we think, to allow change through the customary political processes, in which the people, gay and straight alike, become the heroes of their own stories by meeting each other not as adversaries in a court system but as fellow citizens seeking to resolve a new social issue in a fair-minded way.” Judge Sutton wrote extensively about traditional marriage “shared not long ago by every society in the world” and rejected each of the petitions’ Constitutional arguments for striking down the bans, finding that procreation met the rational basis test for the state laws that restricted marriage to a man and a woman. Virtually every court since *Windsor* rejected that argument.

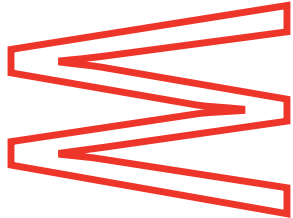
Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey issued a 22-page dissent with a biting opening:

The author of the majority opinion has drafted what would make an engrossing TED Talk or, possibly, an introductory lecture in Political Philosophy. But as an appellate court decision, it wholly fails to grapple with the relevant constitutional question in this appeal. ...Instead, the majority sets up a false premise – that the question before us is “who should decide?” – and leads us through a largely irrelevant discourse on democracy and federalism. In point of fact, the real issue before us

Continue on next page



Sixth Circuit Upholds Ban On Same-Sex Marriage and Poses the Question: Who Should Decide?, *continued*



concerns what is at stake in these six cases for the individual plaintiffs and their children, and what should be done about it. Because I reject the majority’s resolution of these questions based on its invocation of *vox populi* and its reverence for ‘proceeding with caution’ (otherwise known as the ‘wait and see’ approach), I dissent.

Judge Daughtrey disputed the majority’s conclusion that the issue was best left up to the voters: “If we in the judiciary do not have the authority, and indeed the responsibility, to right fundamental wrongs left excused by a majority of the electorate, our whole intricate, constitutional systems of checks and balances, as well as the oaths to which we swore, prove to be nothing but shams.”



Daughtrey’s primary objection to Sutton’s opinion is that he treats the plaintiffs as “mere abstractions” rather than living, breathing human beings:

Instead of recognizing the plaintiffs as persons, suffering actual harm as a result of being denied the right to marry where they reside or the right to have their valid marriages recognized there, my colleagues view the plaintiffs as social activists who have somehow stumbled into federal court, inadvisably, when they should be out campaigning to win ‘the hearts and minds’ of Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee voters to their cause. But these plaintiffs are not political zealots trying to push reform on their fellow citizens; they are committed same-sex couples, many of them heading up *de facto* families, who want to achieve equal status.

Attorneys for the losing plaintiffs immediately sought review in the Supreme Court, hoping to have their cases heard before the term ends in June next year. An *en banc* hearing with the full Sixth Circuit panel would have slowed the process, according to Abby Rubenfeld, Nashville attorney representing the Tennessee plaintiffs, who said, “Given the significance of the issue, the reality that it will end up in the Supreme Court ultimately, and the harms that all of our clients are suffering each day that their marriages are not recognized, we want to get to the Supreme Court sooner rather than later.”

Susan Sommer, director of constitutional litigation for Lambda Legal, which represents the Ohio plaintiffs, released the following statement:

The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals’ ruling upholding discriminatory marriage bans across four states has placed thousands of families back in harm’s way. We will ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review this aberrant ruling as soon as possible. These couples, their children, and the whole nation need a final—and better—resolution to this matter of critical importance to so many American families. The Sixth Circuit’s decision dramatically departs from the path of

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Sixth Circuit Upholds Ban On Same-Sex Marriage and Poses the Question: Who Should Decide?, *continued*

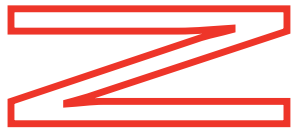
justice that other circuits have followed. These families deserve better than to be told that their marriages, entered into with love and commitment, do not exist in the eyes of these states and are unworthy of the protections that come with marriage. We will not stop our work to change this.

With the appeals courts split, nearly all experts on both sides expect the Supreme Court Justices to enter the fray – most likely by considering one or more of the Sixth Circuit cases. The Michigan case, which went through a two-week trial last winter, looms as a particular favorite. The Tennessee case is also appealing because it involves whether non-recognition states like Tennessee are compelled by the U.S. Constitution to recognize valid, same-sex marriages performed in other states.

But to date, most predictions about what the nine justices would do have proven wrong. Nearly everyone involved thought they would agree last month to hear one or more of the cases from the other circuits. Proponents of same-sex marriage, however, are willing to predict victory if the Supreme Court hears one of the Sixth Circuit cases. They expect Justice Anthony Kennedy, the court's swing vote, to come down on the side of gays and lesbians, just as he did in 1996, 2003 and 2013 in cases involving anti-gay discrimination, sodomy laws and marriage rights. "Justice Kennedy does understand and will understand that these bans to marriage are fundamentally unfair and deny same-sex couples a basic human dignity that they are entitled to," said Steven Shapiro, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

If the court finds a constitutional right to same-sex marriage, that would bring on board the remaining 15 states where bans remain in effect – Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota. If the court upholds the state bans – an outcome considered unlikely, but not out of the question – same-sex marriage would remain unavailable in those 15 states, and hundreds of marriages performed in other states in recent months via court order would be questioned. Then it could get complicated.





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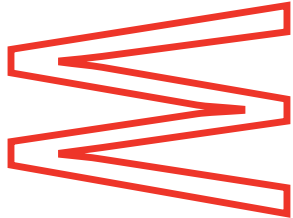
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Baker Donelson's Diversity Retreat 2014



Nancy Vincent (left) moderates the General Counsel panel with (left to right) Iftikhar Ahmad, Ivanetta Davis Samuels and Toney Matthews.

In mid-October the Baker Donelson Diversity Committee came together for its biennial retreat in New Orleans, Louisiana. The gathering, which was open to all diverse Baker Donelson attorneys, served as an opportunity for nearly 50 attendees to meet and network with their colleagues from across the Firm's 19 offices, and provided actionable advice for succeeding as a diverse attorney at Baker Donelson. For the first time, members of the committee's LGBT subgroup, Affinitas, attended the two-day meetings. The full retreat was preceded by a smaller morning-long session of the Steering Committee, led by Diversity Chair Mark Baugh, featuring an update

on the committee's activities and a group session to update the goals and action steps for the Firm's Diversity Strategic Plan. A highlight of the full retreat was the General Counsel Panel, where clients Ivanetta Davis Samuels (Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary at Meharry Medical College); Iftikhar Ahmad (Director of Aviation at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport); and Toney Matthews (former Baker Donelson attorney and now Senior Counsel at The Kroger Co.) generously shared their counsel on what their companies look for when hiring legal counsel, including how diversity factors into those decisions, as well as their own career experiences as diverse professionals. Other sessions included a recruiting update and a session on how new shareholders can progress and thrive in their legal careers.



Firm News

Diversity Scholarship Award Winners Announced

Baker Donelson is pleased to announce the 2014 recipients of the annual Baker Donelson Diversity Scholarship: Ebony Brown, Devon Daughety and Daveante Jones.



Ms. Brown, a graduate of Howard University, is in her second year at the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University and will be a summer associate in the Firm's Atlanta office.

Ms. Daughety is in her second year at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law and will be a summer associate in the Firm's Memphis office. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

Mr. Jones, who graduated from Southern Arkansas University, is in his second year at the University of Arkansas School of Law and will be a summer associate in the Firm's Houston office.

The three recipients were selected from 143 applicants attending 66 law schools across the country, including Duke University School of Law, Emory University School of Law, Georgetown University Law Center, University of Virginia School of Law and Wake Forest University School of Law.

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Firm News, *continued*

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Established in 2008, the Baker Donelson Diversity Scholarship Program awards scholarships annually to diverse law school students who have completed their first year of law school. Each recipient receives a salaried second year summer associate position in one of the Firm's 19 offices. Upon completion of the summer associate position, the Firm also awards each recipient a \$10,000 scholarship during the student's third year of law school.

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Baker Donelson to Participate in OnRamp Fellowship

Baker Donelson is among a select group of 15 leading national law firms to participate in the OnRamp Fellowship, an innovative program to provide women lawyers re-entering the legal profession with an opportunity to update their skills and legal contacts through one-year, paid positions with top law firms. The program aims to replenish the talent pipeline in law firms with diverse, high-performing lawyers who have the potential and the desire to advance into leadership roles.

The Firm will have five open OnRamp Fellowship positions across four of its offices: Atlanta, Birmingham, Nashville and New Orleans. Women lawyers who are selected to participate in the Fellowship will be provided with a shareholder advisor at the Firm, an external career counselor, unlimited online continuing legal education and a variety of training from experts in negotiations, oral advocacy, social media, technology, project management and business development.

Women's Initiative Events Around the Firm

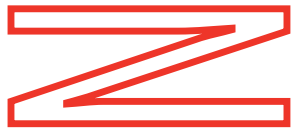
BAKER DONELSON *Women's Initiative*

Baker Donelson's Women's Initiative has hosted a range of events in recent months. On July 18, Brigid Schulte, author and Pulitzer-Prize-winning Washington Post reporter, visited the Washington office for a BakerReads discussion about her book, "Overwhelmed: Work, Love and Play When No One Has the Time." More than 100 attorneys and clients participated in person and via videoconference. Ms. Schulte presented some very interesting data and personal stories about the effects on work-life balance of "burning the candle at both ends and out the middle."

On September 11, the Knoxville Women's Initiative hosted "Comedy for a Cause" featuring comedienne Leanne Morgan, supporting the Cancer Institute at the University of Tennessee Medical Center.

The Jackson Women's Initiative hosted a family-friendly reception in the office before the Jackson Symphony at Sunset on September 18. More than 20 attendees were treated to drinks and snacks in the office before departing for the main event via trolley with Baker Donelson picnic baskets in hand.

On September 25, the Atlanta Women's Initiative hosted "Startups: Strategies & Solutions for Female Entrepreneurs." The lunch event brought together a panel of successful female entrepreneurs and roughly 40 guests to discuss topics that included funding, building your team, protecting your intellectual property, strategy and marketing, pitching your idea and knowing what you don't know. The panel



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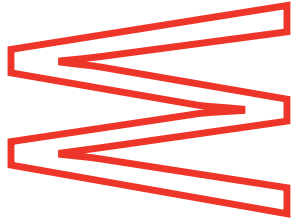
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Firm News, *continued*

included business owners Lee Johnson (Dog Days Atlanta), Melissa Bunnen (A Piece of Cake), Dr. Laura M. Little (Professor at the University of Georgia) and Megan Ouzts (The Spotted Trotter LLC and a Baker Donelson alum) as well as Baker Donelson attorney [Emily Brackstone](#) (Memphis). [Mark Carlson](#) (Atlanta) moderated the discussion.



Houston Hosts Hispanic Heritage Event

On October 6, Baker Donelson’s Houston office hosted “Latinos and Governance Boards, Public and Private.” In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Firm had a screening of “The Insider Game – Part 2” and a panel discussion on Latino board participation.



U.S. News – Best Lawyers “Best Law Firms”

Baker Donelson has garnered 175 first-tier metropolitan rankings in the 2015 U.S. News – Best Lawyers “Best Law Firms” list, the fifth edition of an annual analysis that includes more than 11,000 U.S. law firms. These Tier 1 rankings across 11 metropolitan markets in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas and Washington, D.C., earned Baker Donelson a spot among the top 20 firms nationally, with the most first-tier metropolitan rankings.



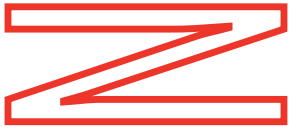
Best Lawyers in America 2015

Baker Donelson is pleased to announce that 248 of its attorneys have been selected by their peers for inclusion in the 2015 edition of The Best Lawyers in America®, including the following women and diverse attorneys:

Suzan A. Abramson
 Alissa J. Allison
 Lauren W. Anderson
 Mary L. Aronov
 L. Mabel Arroyo
 Andrea Barach
 Jenna M. Bedsole
 Jonell B. Beeler
 Sheryl Bey
 Julie Boswell
 Martha L. Boyd
 Heather J. Camp
 Phyllis Cancienne
 Mark A. B. Carlson
 Brigid M. Carpenter
 Stephen Chiccarelli
 Patricia Clotfelter
 Angie Davis
 Nancy Scott Degan
 Sue Hicks Fairbank

Samuel Lanier Felker
 Linda S. Finley
 Barry W. Ford
 Donna Fraiche
 Monica A. Frois
 Floyd D. Gaines
 Courtney H. Gilmer
 Charles K. Grant
 Tonya M. Grindon
 Martha Anderson Hartley
 Jan Marie Hayden
 Mary Ann Jackson
 Frank S. James
 Kelly Overstreet Johnson
 Micheline Kelly Johnson
 Jennifer P. Keller
 Denise W. Killebrew
 Linda A. Klein
 Amelia Williams Koch
 Lynn Landau

Virginia C. Love
 Ashley Meredith Lowe
 Anne B. Mathes
 Anne W. Mitchell
 Mary LeAnn Mynatt
 Carol Owen
 Lori Patterson
 Carla Peacher-Ryan
 Linda J. Peacock
 Jackie Prester
 Susan Elliott Rich
 Clarence Risin
 Kristine L. Roberts
 Margaret M. Silverstein
 Louann P. Smith
 Jill M. Steinberg
 Kelli L. Thompson
 Susan S. Wagner
 Lynne M. White
 Anne Derbes Wittmann



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Attorneys in the News

[Tony Alexander](#) (Memphis) has been appointed to a four-year term on the board of the University of Memphis Research Foundation.

On September 4, [Amy Andrews](#) (Atlanta) article “Business Judgment Rule: Not ‘Get Out of Jail Free Card’ for Directors” was published in the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*. Amy also authored “The Data Security Breach: Protections and Responsibilities Under Georgia’s Personal Identity Protection Act” in the August/September 2014 issue of *Atlanta Lawyer*.

On September 18, [Mabel Arroyo](#) (Nashville) presented at the Greater Nashville Chapter of the American Payroll Association on immigration as it relates to employment/payroll.

[Sabrina Atkins](#) (Atlanta) co-authored the *British Journal of American Legal Studies* article “Cold (Comfort?) Food: The Significance of Last Meal Rituals in the United States.”

[Jamie Ballinger-Holden](#) (Knoxville) was selected to participate in the Tennessee Bar Association’s 2015 Leadership Law Program.

On September 2, [Jenna Bedsole](#) and [Staci Pierce](#) (both Birmingham) co-authored the *Inside Counsel* article “Leading While Learning: Making the Most of Being a Mentee.”

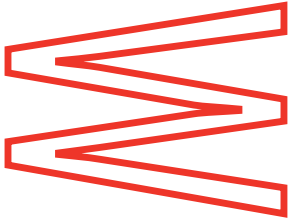
[Lisa Borden](#) (Birmingham) has been named to *Birmingham Magazine*’s “20 Women Who Make a Difference” for 2014, which honors women who have made a difference in the arts, philanthropy, business and other fields in the Birmingham area.

[Julie Boswell](#) (Nashville) spoke at the Nashville Bar Association’s Estate Planning & Probate Practice Institute on October 7 on “Hot Topics in Estate Planning.” She also presented on October 24 at the Tennessee Bar Association’s Transaction Practice CLE on “Will and Trusts – A Practical Primer.”

On August 28, [Sheila Burke](#) (Washington, D.C.) gave a speech at the University of San Francisco entitled “2014 Health Care: The Bumpy Road Ahead: Politics and Policy.” She also moderated a panel discussion on the Ebola epidemic at the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) on September 9. Sheila is an adjunct lecturer at HKS and a research fellow at the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy. On October 10, Sheila moderated a panel entitled “International Standards for Effective Care Delivery” at the AARP International and The Global CEO Initiative on Alzheimer’s Disease conference “Changing Global Care for Alzheimer’s and Dementia” in Washington, D.C. Finally, she has been appointed to the board of Ascension, parent company to the nation’s largest nonprofit health care system.

[Brigid Carpenter](#) (Nashville) was honored to serve on the faculty of the 42nd annual IADC Trial Academy at Stanford Law School July 25 – August 1. Brigid was one of 14 trial attorneys from around the country to be chosen by the director to lead and teach approximately 98 students from the U.S., Canada and Brazil. She also has been selected as a member of the 2014 IADC Trial Academy Faculty.

[Amy Champagne](#) and [Adria Hertwig](#) (Jackson) were two of the co-authors of the Mississippi chapter of the “State Antitrust Practice and Statutes” (Fifth) of the ABA Antitrust Law Section.



Where We’ve Been

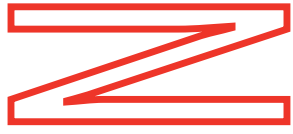
YWCA Race Forum
(Atlanta)

The Magic City Bar Association Annual Scholarship and Fundraiser
(Birmingham)

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Convention
(Scottsdale)

Nashville Minority Enterprise Development Week (MEDWeek)

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Firm News, *continued*

On October 3, the *Memphis Daily News* published a feature article on [Joann Coston-Holloway](#) (Memphis), titled “Coston-Holloway Finds Myriad Ways to Give Back.”

On October 30, [Christy Crider](#)’s (Nashville) article “6 Reasons It’s OK Not to be Perfect at Everything” was published in *Inside Counsel*.

[Nakimuli Davis-Primer](#) and [Marlena Pickering](#) (both Jackson) are members of the 2014-2015 Class of Leadership Greater Jackson.

On October 1, [Eddy De Los Santos](#) (Houston) was noted among the honorees in the *Houston Business Journal*’s 2013 “Top 40 Under 40” list.

On July 24 [Renee Decker](#) (Ft. Lauderdale) co-authored the *ABA Banking Journal* article “An Obamacare Alert for Health Lenders: Part 1: Questions to Ask Health Care Clients.”

[Nancy Degan](#) (New Orleans) has assumed the role of chair for the American Bar Association’s (ABA) Section of Litigation, the ABA’s largest specialty section. Nancy began her one-year term at the conclusion of the 2014 ABA Annual Meeting in Boston. Among the initiatives Nancy has planned for her term are a law school outreach program and the expansion of Project H.E.L.P (Homeless Experience Legal Protection). She also authored the ABA Section of Litigation article “Opening Statement: Practical Advice from a Practical Lawyer.”

Nancy Degan also was recognized in the 2014 edition of *Benchmark Litigation* as Local Litigation Star (Louisiana) and in the Top 250 Women in Litigation (Louisiana).

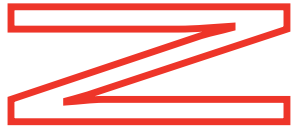
Nancy and [Kathlyn Perez](#) (also of New Orleans) have been selected by *New Orleans CityBusiness* as “Women of the Year.” They were honored at an awards luncheon on November 14 and profiled in the November 21 issue of *New Orleans CityBusiness*.

On September 5, [Doreen Edelman](#) (Washington, D.C.) of Baker Donelson’s Global Business Team co-presented at a North Alabama International Trade Association event on “Doing Business in Europe & Benefits of TTIP.”

On October 17, [Wendy Ellard](#) (Jackson) presented in Chicago, Illinois, at the fall meeting of the ABA’s Forum on the Construction Industry on “In the Eye of the Storm: Disaster Response and Resilience,” regarding the potential implications of natural disasters and how the construction industry can be more prepared for these events.

[Sam Felker](#) (Nashville) was elected chair of the Metropolitan Board of Health. On October 28, he also served as a panelist at an ABA Health Law Committee Roundtable entitled “Ebola and the Public Health System: Risk Management and Legal Duties in Fighting a Deadly Infectious Disease.”





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Firm News, *continued*

[Sam Felker](#) and [Taylor Wirth](#) (also of Nashville) co-authored the *Unite* magazine article “The Fight for Marriage Equality Continues in Tennessee.”

On August 6, [Linda Finley](#)’s (Atlanta) article “Walking Dead? Beware the Zombie Foreclosure” was published in *National Mortgage News*.

[Monica Frois](#) (New Orleans) has been reappointed co-vice chair of diverse member development for the Diversity Committee of the International Association of Defense Council (IADC). Monica also has been named to the board of managers of the Hermann-Grima and Gallier Historic Houses.

On August 19, [Courtney Gilmer](#)’s (Nashville) article “Proposed HMDA Changes Set to Improve Data Quality” was published in *National Mortgage News*.

[Charles Grant](#) (Nashville) has been named second vice president of the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands.

On August 8, [Gina Greenwood](#) (Macon) was quoted in the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* article “You’ve Been Hacked.”

[Claire Cowart Haltom](#) (Nashville), was named chair of the Teaching Hospitals & Academic Medical Centers Practice Group of the American Health Lawyers Association.

[Marty Hartley](#) (Orlando) co-authored the article “The Florida Condominium Termination Trap” in the Florida Bankers Association newsletter, *FBA Insights*.

On September 19, [Jan Hayden](#) (New Orleans) spoke at the Entity Law in Bankruptcy CLE hosted by the Bankruptcy Law Committee of the New Orleans Bar Association on “Involuntary Partnership Bankruptcies.”

[Jen Howard](#)’s co-authored article “Identifying Indemnity Issues” was published on The *Monitor Daily*.

[Jennifer Keller](#) (Johnson City) has been named to Human Resource Executive’s list of “40 Up and Comers” in employment law for the fourth consecutive year.

On August 15, [Camalla Kimbrough](#)’s (New Orleans) article “Nearly Ten Years Later: How Hurricane Katrina Transformed New Orleans into an Attractive Market” was published on the *Silicon Bayou News*.

[Linda Klein](#) (Atlanta) was honored at the Georgia Legal Services Program’s Champions of Justice Award ceremony for her efforts to assist indigent victims of domestic violence. She was also featured in the October 12 *Atlanta Business Chronicle*’s 2014 “Who’s Who in Law & Accounting” special section. In addition, Linda was honored by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*’s inaugural “Women Who Mean Business” Awards on October 13. This award recognizes 15 women from various industries and professions who





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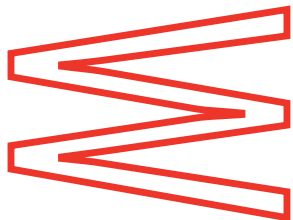
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Firm News, *continued*

have made a difference in their communities and blazed a trail for others. Linda’s advocacy for domestic abuse victims and her goal of equal justice for all were spotlighted. Finally, on November 7-8, Linda was a keynote speaker at the ABA’s Women Rainmakers Mid-Career Workshop, “Conform No More: Navigate Your Own Course.”



[Virginia Love](#) (Chattanooga) has been named a 2014 Women of Distinction honoree by the American Lung Association in Tennessee. She was also named a Class of 2014 Fellow by the Chattanooga Bar Foundation and has been elected to the board of the Helen Ross McNabb Foundation.

[Susan Mathews](#)’ (Houston) article “Corporate Chapter 11 Bankruptcies: The Case for Venue Reform” was published in the *ABF Journal*.



On September 16, [Kacie Flinn McRee](#) (Knoxville) authored the *Memphis Daily News* article “Tennessee Steps Up the Fight Against Blight.”

[Meghan Morgan](#) (Knoxville) co-authored the *TBA Corporate Counsel Section Newsletter* article “Blocking and Tackling – Executing the Fundamentals in Conducting Internal Investigations: Lessons Learned from the NFL’s Handling of the Ray Rice Investigation.”

On September 11, [Kathlyn Perez](#) presented “Avoiding Social Media Abuses in the Workplace” at the Baton Rouge Medical Group Management Association September meeting.

[Amanda Perry](#) (Orlando) served as a panelist for the Florida Bar’s “Practicing with Professionalism” CLE, which is a required CLE for all first-year attorneys. Amanda also served as a panelist for the Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers’ “Words of Wisdom from Well Informed Women” event.

On August 11, [Jackie Prester](#)’s (Memphis) article “Regulators Continue Focus on Leveraged Lending” was published in *Westlaw Journal Bank & Lender Liability*. Jackie also authored the article “Technology in the Board Room: How Electronic Portals Affect Fiduciary Duties” in the October 2013 issue of *Tennessee Banker* magazine.

The Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety recently gathered at the Bipartisan Policy Center workshop and announced that the Alliance has made major progress in its efforts to improve safety in Bangladesh garment factories. Remarks made by [Ellen Tauscher](#) (Washington, D.C.), independent chair of the Alliance, during the workshop were picked up by several publications, including PR Web and Yahoo! Finance.

[Anne Turner](#) (Jackson) was named to the *Mississippi Business Journal*’s 2014 list of “50 Leading Business Women in Mississippi” and was profiled in the MBJ’s special publication highlighting all of the honorees.

[Mary Wu](#) co-wrote an article published in the Fall 2014 Memphis Bar Association Young Lawyers Division quarterly newsletter, the *YLD Appeal*.

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Firm News, *continued*

Several members of the Firm's Knowledge Management Team have been appointed to key positions within the International Legal Technology Association (ILTA), the leading technology organization in the legal industry, including [Jessica Hackett](#), Knowledge Manager (Memphis) and [Meredith Williams](#), Chief Knowledge Management Officer.

Meredith also served as a panelist at the Ark KM 10th Annual Conference discussing "The Business of Knowledge Management: KM's Evolving Outward, Client-Facing Role and the Commercialization of Knowledge-Sharing Tools."

New Faces



[Marissa Arreola](#) joins Baker Donelson as shareholder and represents large hospital networks, individual hospitals and physicians in a variety of transactions and regulatory matters. Her experience includes representing physician groups in acquisitions by private equity-backed entities; developing, drafting and negotiating salary, productivity and non-compete models for physician employment agreements; and advising clients regarding Stark, Anti-Kickback, Federal False Claims Act and other health care fraud and abuse laws. She previously served as Director of Legal Services for The Methodist Hospital System, a five-hospital network and academic center headquartered in Houston's Texas Medical Center. Ms. Arreola is vice chair of the American Health Lawyers Association's Physician In-House Counsel Affinity Group.



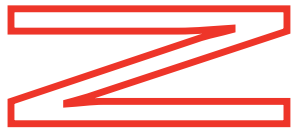
[Jean Bertas](#) joined the Firm as a staff attorney in the Jackson office. Jean concentrates her practice in nursing home and medical malpractice litigation.



[Eve Cann](#) joined our Fort Lauderdale office as an associate in Financial Institutions, focusing on mortgage litigation. A 2007 University of Miami School of Law graduate, Eve represents and defends banks and mortgage lenders and servicers in state and federal courts, and has a high level of experience with lender liability claims and other consumer finance issues.



[Eric D. Coleman](#) has joined the Firm as a litigation associate in Baker Donelson's Birmingham office. Eric focuses his practice on construction litigation, residential mortgage litigation and product liability. While attending law school, he worked as a research assistant to Professor Susan Lyons at The University of Alabama School of Law. He also served as a law clerk at the Alabama Law Institute.



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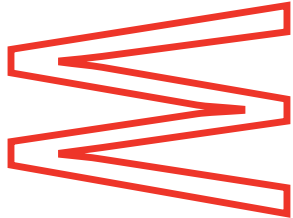
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New Faces



[Alfredo Donelson](#) has joined Baker Donelson’s Jackson office as of counsel. With more than 30 years of corporate banking and finance experience, Mr. Donelson offers clients a wide range of experience in the financing of many kinds of equipment, including transportation, manufacturing, vessels, construction and other types of equipment; negotiating and documenting asset-based loans; and experience in the modification or restructure of all types of loans, leases and other financing vehicles.



[Paula Estrada de Martin](#) has joined the New Orleans office as an associate. A registered patent attorney, Paula concentrates her practice on life sciences and biotechnology subject areas.



[Margaret “Maggie” Kepler](#) joined the residential mortgage litigation team in our Fort Lauderdale office. She holds a Masters in Law in International Taxation and Financial Services, and has an extensive bankruptcy background with experience representing creditors in all aspects of Chapter 7, 13 and 11 bankruptcy proceedings.



[Casey Miley](#) has joined the real estate group as an attorney in the Nashville office. She works with buyers, sellers, landlords, tenants and lenders in a wide variety of real estate transactions. Ms. Miley’s extensive health care experience includes purchase, sale, leaseback, development, management, leasing and financing of raw and improved assets.



[Wendy Padilla-Madden](#) joined the Birmingham office as an immigration shareholder. She handles all aspects of business immigration law, including compliance with federal, state and local employment verification requirements and the global movement of key executive, managerial and specialized knowledge personnel.



[Elizabeth Sauer](#) has joined the Firm’s Nashville office as shareholder in the real estate group. She has experience in a wide variety of real estate transactions, working with owner-operators, developers, managers and investors, primarily within the health care and senior housing/skilled nursing industries.



[Michelle Zaltsberg](#) joined the business litigation group in the Orlando office as an associate. Michelle practices commercial litigation, helping clients resolve their complex business disputes. She also has significant experience litigating insurance coverage and insurance bad faith matters.

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