

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Baker Donelson Earns Top Ten Ranking in Vault's 2017 "Best Law Firms for Diversity"

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(Memphis, TN / September 13, 2016) Baker Donelson has been ranked among the top ten law firms in the country in the 2017 edition of *Vault, Inc.*'s "Best Law Firms for Diversity."

Baker Donelson ranked ninth in the country on *Vault*'s "Best Law Firms for Diversity" list. This national ranking includes five separate categories for diversity, with the overall ranking determined by a formula that weighs all the categories evenly. Baker Donelson was ranked among the top ten law firms nationally in three of the five categories, including:

- Diversity for Women – Sixth Place
- Diversity for Military Veterans – Ninth Place
- Diversity for Individuals with Disabilities –Tenth Place

"We are honored by this recognition and are proud of our attorneys and staff who are committed to enhancing firm culture by fostering an inclusive environment," said Mark A. Baugh, chair of Baker Donelson's Diversity Committee.

Baker Donelson also ranked 13th in the country in the "Best Law Firms to Work For" list and achieved a first place ranking in the category of transparency for the fourth consecutive year.

Launched in 2002, Baker Donelson's Diversity Initiative is focused on recruiting, developing and retaining employees from diverse backgrounds, and creating a workplace that respects and values diversity while providing a fair opportunity for all employees to maximize the fullest extent of their abilities. Since the launch of the Diversity Initiative, the increase in Baker Donelson's diverse attorney population and the number of minority shareholders has far outpaced the Firm's overall growth. Recruitment and retention of female attorneys have improved as well, and women are strongly represented in leadership roles across the Firm, from the president and chief operating officer to practice group leaders and office managing shareholders.