Jaron Herd*

Disaster Policy Specialist

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Jaron Herd focuses on disaster recovery and emergency management, leveraging her experience as an appeals manager at the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) to provide effective and efficient assistance to clients as part of Baker Donelson's Government Solutions and Public Funding Team.

Jaron works with public agencies, private organizations, and community stakeholders to transform disaster recovery and resilience challenges into strategic opportunities. As part of Baker Donelson's Government Solutions and Public Funding Team, she helps clients navigate complex federal programs and funding streams to secure resources, maintain compliance, and accelerate recovery efforts.

Her work includes FEMA Public Assistance and hazard mitigation programs, as well as federal initiatives such as Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and the Louisiana Department of Energy HERO program. Jaron provides guidance that enables clients to design effective recovery strategies, reduce risk, and strengthen long term resilience.

Before joining Baker Donelson, Jaron spent more than six years managing the FEMA appeal and arbitration processes of GOHSEP, unlocking millions in disaster relief for infrastructure projects.

Jaron draws on that experience to help clients interpret policy, navigate federal regulations, and implement programs that deliver measurable results for municipalities, state agencies, and private-sector resilience initiatives. She primarily focuses on FEMA policy interpretation and compliance strategy, disaster recovery program design, federal grant acquisition (including BRIC, HERO, and related programs), and stakeholder engagement and risk mitigation.

Previously, Jaron served in roles at the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board and the East Baton Rouge District Attorney's Office. She also holds a Public Trust security clearance from the Department of Homeland Security.

Professional Honors & Activities

- Professional Excellence Award (GOHSEP), 2017
- Outstanding Performance Recognition Award (GOHSEP), 2018
- Emergency Service Award (GOHSEP), 2019

Publications

- "DRG Quick Bite: How the 2024 OMB Revisions Affect Purchasing Under a FEMA Award" (August 2024)
- "Don't Take FEMA Closeout Deobligations Lying Down," republished October 4, 2023, in *Daily Business Review* (September 2023)
- "Are You BRIC-ready?" (October 2022)

Education

- Trident University International, Master's of Business Administration
- Louisiana State University, Bachelor of Science