

PRESS RELEASE

Baker Donelson Named as Top Bond Counsel Firm in Mississippi

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(Jackson, MS/March 2, 2011) Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC has been ranked as the top bond counsel firm in Mississippi by *The Bond Buyer*, a national news outlet serving the municipal bond industry.

In its annual Southeast Year-End Review, *The Bond Buyer* compiled rankings based on the total transaction amount for bond issues maturing in 2010. Baker Donelson participated as bond counsel in Mississippi transactions of nearly \$1.4 billion. In 2010, the Firm was involved in over \$2 billion in public finance transactions in Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama.

"Baker Donelson is proud to be involved in so many projects contributing to the growth and future of Mississippi," said Steve Edds, a member of the Firm's Public Finance group and a shareholder in the Jackson office. "Our goal is to continue to be the state's leading law firm for municipal finance."

Baker Donelson's Public Finance practice is national in scope and includes attorneys who are recognized by *Chambers USA: America's Leading Business Lawyers* and *Best Lawyers in America*® in the area of Public Finance Law. In recent years, the Firm's lawyers have been involved in the issuance of more than \$6 billion in long-term municipal debt, including the second largest issuance of tax credit bonds ever done in the United States and the establishment of the state of Mississippi's first commercial paper program. Baker Donelson attorneys have assisted in the financing of water and sewer systems, port and airport facilities, multi-family and single family housing, hospital and health care equipment and facilities, economic and community development, tourism projects, higher education facilities and all forms of public and private capital improvements.