

PRESS RELEASE

Baker Donelson Named Gold Standard Firm by Women in Law Empowerment Forum

July 06, 2017

For the third consecutive year, Baker Donelson has been certified by the Women in Law Empowerment Forum (WILEF) as a Gold Standard Firm.

WILEF grants Gold Standard status to firms that meet objective criteria concerning the number of women among equity partners, in firm leadership positions and in the ranks of their most highly compensated partners. Baker Donelson was among 44 law firms across the country to earn this certification.

Christy Tosh Crider, chair of Baker Donelson's [Women's Initiative](#) and a shareholder in the Firm's Nashville office, said, "We are proud to once again be recognized by WILEF among the law firms truly making a difference in increasing the representation and leadership of women in the legal profession. Baker Donelson is committed to a workplace culture where female attorneys thrive, and we will continue to strive for further progress in ensuring the success of women within our Firm and the profession as a whole."

Criteria that are considered for WILEF Gold Standard Certification include the number of women attorneys who are equity partners; who serve as heads of the firm, its offices and practice groups or departments; who serve on the firm's primary governance committee; and who serve on the committee that determines equity partner compensation.

At Baker Donelson, female attorneys serve as leaders across the Firm. Currently, women serve as president and COO, on the board of directors, as office managing shareholders, and as practice group and committee chairs. Women lead numerous administrative departments within Baker Donelson as well, such as Knowledge Management, Recruiting and Professional Development. This year's class of new shareholders at the Firm was comprised of more than 50 percent women, making it the third consecutive year women have made up nearly or more than half of the Firm's newly elected shareholders.

Baker Donelson has received numerous recognitions as an exceptional workplace for women, including being ranked 53rd on FORTUNE's list of the 100 Best Workplaces for Women and being ranked third nationally in diversity for women in the 2018 edition of *Vault, Inc.*'s "Best Law Firms for Diversity."