

# PUBLICATION

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## Baker Donelson Alumni Spotlight: Andrea Barach

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Andrea Barach serves as general counsel for Emerald Shelter Group in Nashville, Tennessee.

### Tell us about your career at Baker Donelson. What did you learn from your time here that stuck with you?

I really noticed and enjoyed the sense of teamwork and mutual support offered by Baker attorneys to one another, as well as a sense of enthusiasm about the future being constructed by the firm, for the firm. I also appreciated seeing so many women in leadership positions!



### Tell us about your role now.

I am general counsel for a nonprofit owner and operator of nursing homes, assisted living, independent living and affordable housing in four states.

### Why is it important to mentor young women attorneys?

Everyone needs a mentor. When I was a young lawyer, there were no female mentors (my firm had only two women attorneys: me and another junior associate), and I certainly had some excellent mentoring from male colleagues and learned a lot. However, the conversations are different when mentor and mentee have a shared background, and certainly I know I would have appreciated having the perspective of a senior female attorney when I was an associate! Thus, I made a point of actively mentoring younger women at my law firms, either as an official or, more often, an unofficial mentor."

### What is one piece of advice you have on work-life balance?

You never have it solved – it always is a wobbly process of navigation, and we should not be so hard on ourselves when things do not flow perfectly!

### What advice would you give to your younger self just starting the practice of law?

Don't be afraid to toot your own horn – if you don't, why do you expect anyone else to do so?

### Is there a misconception you had about going in-house that has now been debunked and, if so, what is it?

Not really a misconception but going from a large firm to a one-person legal department, I really miss all the support systems that I may have taken for granted before (nobody to call if the copier jams!).