



Andrea Bailey Powers

Shareholder

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Andrea Bailey Powers has more than 30 years' experience as a dedicated ERISA/employee benefits attorney.

Working from the Birmingham office, Ms. Powers represents employers in all aspects of employee benefits and executive compensation matters, including the design and administration of tax-qualified retirement plans, health and welfare benefit plans, and non-qualified executive compensation and equity plans. She previously served as an Adjunct Professor of Employee Benefits Law at the University of Alabama's Hugh F. Culverhouse Jr. School of Law.

Ms. Powers' practice focuses heavily on issues related to controlled and affiliated service groups of employers. She helps create solutions for benefits issues that arise in complicated organizational structures, such as nondiscrimination testing, Qualified Separate Line of Business (QSLOB) filings, and Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement (MEWA) analysis. Ms. Powers has significant experience representing third-party administrators (TPAs) and employers with respect to administrative service agreements and ERISA compliance. Her practice includes employers in a variety of industries, with a focus on health care, manufacturing, and REITs.

Ms. Powers is a frequent speaker and commentator on the Affordable Care Act and other health plan issues, where she applies a practical, business-like approach to compliance. She believes that it is essential to understand the client's business in order to provide useful guidance. To better grasp the issues facing her clients, Ms. Powers provides no-fee, in-person initial consultations and keeps up to date by monitoring trade and industry news and legislation.

Her practice also includes advising employers and others on ERISA fiduciary compliance issues for both retirement and welfare benefits. She frequently advises administrative committees on fiduciary best practices and represents clients in IRS and U.S. Department of Labor audits and investigations, as well as pursuing corrections under the Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System (EPCRS) and Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program (VFCP).

Ms. Powers oversees the design and implementation of equity and synthetic (phantom) equity programs to compensate executives in both established and startup companies. She routinely works with buyers and sellers to coordinate benefits issues in mergers and acquisitions, including retirement plan mergers, change of control payments, and mid-year health plan issues. Ms. Powers also provides counsel with respect to executive compensation issues for both for-profit and tax-exempt entities. This advice includes analysis of and compliance with Internal Revenue Code §§ 409A, 162(m), and 280G (golden parachute).



Professional Honors & Activities

- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law (2020 – 2026)
- Listed in *Chambers USA* as a leading Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation lawyer in Alabama (2024, 2025)
- Listed as among *B-Metro Magazine*'s Top Women Attorneys (2020, 2022)
- Adjunct Professor – University of Alabama School of Law (2016 – 2021)
- Member – Georgia and Alabama State Bar Associations
- Former National Program Chair – WEB, Worldwide Employee Benefits Network

- Past President, Atlanta Chapter, WEB, Worldwide Employee Benefits Network
- Former Board Member – National Women in Pensions, Inc.
- Past President and Member, Board of Directors – Oasis Counseling Center for Women and Children
- Adjunct Professor – Georgia State University (1999 – 2004)



Publications

- "An Employer's Practical Guide to 401(k) Plan Catch-Up Contribution Changes for 2026," republished December 2, 2025, in *BenefitsPRO* (November 2025)
- "Final and Proposed Regulations for Retirement and Health Plans" (February 2025)
- "Preparing Employers for SECURE 2.0 Compliance in 2025," republished in *BenefitsPRO* (November 2024)
- "Health Plan Compliance Concerns for Year-End 2024," republished in *BenefitsPRO* (September 2024)
- "Surprise! Gag Clause Attestation Due by 12/31/2023" (December 2023)
- "ACA Affordability Test Will Be More Difficult to Pass in 2024," republished October 3, 2023, in *Westlaw Today* (September 2023)
- "IRS Issues Catch-Up Contribution Transition Relief" (September 2023)
- "End of COVID-19 National Emergency: Impact on Employee Benefit Plans" (April 2023)
- "SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022," republished in *BenefitsPRO* (January 2023)
- "Group Health Plans and Abortion: Implications of Supreme Court Decision," republished in *BenefitsPRO* (June 2022)
- "Transparency in Coverage Rules" (June 2022)
- "COBRA Subsidy: Don't Forget – 2nd Notice Deadline is Looming" (August 2021)
- Co-author – "UPDATE: Administrative Guidance Issued Regarding Implementation of COBRA Subsidies," republished in *Westlaw* (April 2021)
- Co-author – "Six Months of Paid COBRA Premiums for "Assistance Eligible Individuals"" (March 2021)
- Co-author – "Employee Benefits in Mergers and Acquisitions: Buyer Beware," *The ASPPA Journal* (Winter 2011)
- Co-author – "Ready To Be Sued For Expected Benefits?," Baker Donelson Alert (June 8, 2011); republished in Chattanooga Manufacturers Association Newsletter (June 2011)



Speaking Engagements

- "Avoiding Nonqualified Plan Traps: Key Considerations for ERISA Counsel and Employers," Strafford CLE webinar (April 2021)
- "COVID-19 @ Work: Straight Talk Series - Session IV: Employee Benefits," Employment Law Alliance webinar (May 21, 2020)
- "Health Care Reform Under President Trump," Sixth Annual Hospitality & Tourism Law Symposium (July 2017)
- "Navigating the Challenges of Same-Sex Marriages, Domestic Partnerships and Civil Unions," Alabama State SHRM Conference (May 2013)
- "The Affordable Care Act and Employer-Sponsored Health Plans," Alabama Utility Contractors Association (January 2013)
- "Ethical Considerations," National Business Institute (December 2012)
- "ESOP In Ownership Succession Planning," National Business Institute (December 2012)



Webinars

- The Importance of Controlled and Affiliated Service Group Determinations to Benefits Compliance (April 2025)

- Helping Businesses Navigate the DOL's 2024 Independent Contractor Rule (February 2024)
- The Fiduciary's Year-End Check-Up (November 2023)
- Employee Benefits Update (August 2023)
- Employee Benefits Update (March 2022)
- Alabama Employers' COVID-19 Questions Answered (September 2021)
- Vaccine Incentives: Your Questions Answered (September 2021)
- COBRA Subsidies: What Employers Need to Do Immediately (April 2021)
- COVID-19 Legislation, Regulation, and Remote Workers – The Rapidly Evolving State Tax and Human Resource Requirements for a Business (March 2021)



Education

- University of Virginia School of Law, J.D., 1993
 - Managing Editor, *Virginia Tax Review*
 - Volunteer Tax Preparation
 - Legal Aid Society
- University of Alabama, B.S., 1990, *cum laude*
 - Beta Alpha Psi
 - Mortar Board, Anderson Society, The XXXI



Admissions

- Alabama, 2008
- Georgia, 1993
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia, 1995