



## Ben C. Adams

Chairman Emeritus

Memphis | 901.577.2307 | [badams@bakerdonelson.com](mailto:badams@bakerdonelson.com)

Ben C. Adams concentrates his practice in the areas of estate planning and corporate law.

Mr. Adams helps his clients with estate planning and corporate law matters, with extensive experience drafting wills and trusts, working with families and closely held entities and implementing sophisticated planning techniques. In the corporate area, Mr. Adams has extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions, corporate, partnership and limited liability company formations, shareholder agreements and business contracts.

Chairman Emeritus of Baker Donelson, Mr. Adams served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Firm for a combined total of 21 years (June 1993 – April 1998; October 2003 – April 2019). Under his leadership, Baker Donelson grew from a firm of around 270 attorneys and advisors across ten offices in three states and Washington, D.C. to become one of the 60 largest law firms in the country, with more than 650 attorneys and advisors across 22 offices in 11 states and Washington, D.C. Throughout the Firm's significant growth, it created and maintained a strong culture as an exceptional workplace, earning a spot on Fortune's "100 Best Companies to Work For" list for nine consecutive years. Mr. Adams garnered multiple honors recognizing his leadership, including being named among "America's Most Innovative Managing Partners" by *Law360*.

Mr. Adams' care for his clients extends to his involvement in the Memphis community. He devotes significant time to the betterment of the city, serving as current chair of the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission and past chair of Memphis Tomorrow, an association of CEOs of Memphis' largest enterprises who collaborate with government and civic leaders to foster economic prosperity throughout the community, as well as serving as director of the Greater Memphis Chamber, co-chair of the Chairman's Circle of the Greater Memphis Chamber, and chair of the Business Climate Task Force of the Chairman's Circle. He is also chair of the Memphis Chamber's JOBS PAC Board.



### Professional Honors & Activities

- Chairman and CEO of the Firm (October 2003 – April 2019)
- Managing Partner of the Firm (June 1993 – April 1998)
- Named to *Memphis Business Journal's* 2021 "Power 100" list (Memphis' most influential business leaders)
- Recipient – *Memphis Business Journal's* "Best of the Bar" Lifetime Achievement Award (2016)
- Named "Most Innovative Managing Partner" by *Law360* (2012)
- Recipient – CEO of the Year Award by *MBQ: Inside Memphis Business* (2013)
- Listed in *Mid-South Super Lawyers* (2006 – 2012, 2018 – 2020)
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® since 2006 in the areas of Corporate Law, Trusts and Estates, Business Organizations
- Named the *Best Lawyers'* 2021 and 2013 Memphis Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships) "Lawyer of the Year"
- Named the *Best Lawyers'* 2019 Memphis Corporate Law "Lawyer of the Year"
- Named the *Best Lawyers'* 2011 Memphis Corporate Lawyer of the Year
- Listed as among top 50 attorneys in Memphis and among top 100 attorneys in Tennessee by *Mid-South Super Lawyers* (2010 and 2011)

- Named to *Business Tennessee* magazine's "Best 150 Lawyers 2007" in the area of corporate law, and named to "Best 101 Lawyers in Tennessee" 2004 and 2005 editions in corporate law
- Chair – Memphis Shelby Crime Commission (2009 – present)
- Named to Tennessee Boys & Girls Clubs Hall of Fame (2019)
- Director – Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis, Chair (2011)
- Director – Greater Memphis Chamber
- President – Greater Memphis Chamber JOBS PAC
- Co-Chair – Chamber's Circle of Greater Memphis (Chair, Business Climate Task Force)
- Trustee – Dixon Gallery and Gardens
- Trustee – Hugo Dixon Endowment Fund
- Former Chair – Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis Capital and Endowment Campaign
- Former Co-Chair – Church of the Holy Communion Capital Campaign (2016 – 2017)
- Former Member – Vanderbilt Law School Advisory Board (2009 – 2014)
- Former Chair – Memphis Area Legal Services 2007 Access to Justice Campaign
- Former Member – Memphis Tomorrow (Chair, 2015 – 2016)
- Former Trustee – Elmwood Cemetery, President (2004 – 2006)
- Memphis University School Alumnus of the Year (2005 – 2006)
- Recipient – Ira Samelson, Jr. Distinguished Service Award, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Memphis
- Former Trustee – Memphis University School, Chair (1997 – 2004)
- Former Senior Warden – Church of the Holy Communion (Episcopal) (2003 – 2004)
- Former Chair – Dixie Homes Boys & Girls Club (1993 – 1994)
- Former President – Phoenix Club (1989 – 1990)
- Leadership Memphis – Class of 1990
- Member – Memphis Estate Planning Council
- Member – Tennessee, Memphis and American Bar Associations
- Fellow – Memphis Bar Foundation
- Fellow – American Bar Foundation



## Publications

- "Growing A Firm – And Its Profitability," American Bar Association's *Law Practice Magazine* (May/June 2017)
- "Baker Donelson CEO Talks Law Trends and His Passion for Memphis," *Memphis Business Journal* (May 2016)



## Speaking Engagements

- "Getting Back to Basics: The Real Deal of Schools, Crime & Taxes," Urban Land Institute Memphis' event (May 2016)



## Education

- Vanderbilt University School of Law, J.D., 1981
  - Order of the Coif
  - *Vanderbilt Law Review*
- University of North Carolina, B.A. in Economics, 1978
  - Phi Beta Kappa



## Admissions

- Tennessee, 1981