

PRESS RELEASE

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

June 25, 2020

For the sixth 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 48 U.S. law firms to earn this certification.

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 firm's compensation committee. To earn certification, firms must meet both a mandatory criterion regarding the percentage of women equity partners and at least three of five additional criteria related to women in various areas of leadership, compensation and minority/LGBT representation.

Christy Tosh Crider, chair of Baker Donelson's Women's Initiative, said, "Our Firm's commitment to the advancement of women is among the best in the country. We are pleased to be recognized for our success by WILEF for six consecutive years."

Through its **Women's Initiative**, Baker Donelson has implemented numerous key initiatives designed to create an environment where female attorneys thrive, including an industry-leading parental leave policy, a firm-wide mentoring program for women, a program that awards business development grants to women attorneys and a training program designed to help women attorneys achieve equity shareholder status.

Baker Donelson has earned numerous national recognitions as an exceptional workplace for women. It has been named to Women Inc. magazine's "Top 100 Law Firms for Women," Working Mother's "Best Law Firms for Women," and FORTUNE's "100 Best Workplaces for Women®," and has been recognized nationally in diversity for women in Vault, Inc.'s "Best Law Firms for Diversity." The Firm was also recognized by the Chambers Women in Law Awards: USA 2018 as a finalist in the category of Outstanding Firm in Advancing Gender Diversity and Inclusion.