

Welcome to the first edition of "Women Out in Front"



"We are very excited to highlight our firm's women attorneys' achievements and professional and community involvement. Enjoy Adams and Reese's first edition of our "Women Out in Front" Newsletter."

[Jaimmé Collins](#)

New Orleans, Partner, Litigation,
Diversity Committee Chair

The Adams and Reese "Women Out in Front" newsletter will highlight our law firm's women attorneys' achievements, awards, recognitions, and professional and community involvement as our women attorneys continue to make a difference in our 16 communities in which our firm has offices across the nation.

Adams and Reese women lead by example and share in the leadership of our firm. We are proud of our women attorneys serving in leadership positions in professional, civic and philanthropic organizations. We hope you will enjoy our "Women Out in Front" newsletter, and we look forward to bringing you the latest news of our women attorneys.

Clients Name Lanusse Among Labor and Employment All-Stars for Fourth Consecutive Year

Adams and Reese New Orleans Partner [Leslie Lanusse](#) has been named by corporate counsel to the "BTI Client Service All-Stars" for 2014, the only independently researched, client-driven ranking of attorneys. This is Leslie's fourth consecutive appearance on this list and she is one of only nine labor and employment attorneys nationwide to be selected to the list since 2011.

Leslie also was featured in a *Law360* article, "49 Employment Attorneys Know How To Keep GCs Happy." Leslie was quoted in the article, "Sometimes we need to forget a bit that we are lawyers and drive the litigation agenda because that doesn't always serve the client or provide the right solution for the problem they face. In many respects, they want us not only to provide them with good, sound legal advice, but to be their business partner as well."

BTI conducted more than 250 individual interviews with corporate counsel at Fortune 1000 companies to select the attorneys. Corporate counsel named just 49 labor and employment attorneys nationwide as leaders in client service.



"Clients want us not only to provide them with good, sound legal advice, but to be their business partner as well."

- Leslie Lanusse

Introducing our Women's Initiative Team

Newsletter Editor



[Lara White](#)

New Orleans, Partner
Litigation

Committee Chairs



[Michelle Craig](#)

New Orleans, Partner
Labor and Employment



[Victoria White Baudier](#)

New Orleans, Partner
Transactions

Attorneys Lead Labor and Employment Seminar



The Adams and Reese labor and employment practice area team put on a “Current Trends in Labor and Employment Law” day-long seminar on April 10th at Dickie Brennan’s Steakhouse in New Orleans. The seminar was attended by approximately 100 HR department professionals, certified public accountants, business owners and executives.

Adams and Reese Partner [Katie Gilchrist](#) kicked off the seminar with “Affordable Care Act – What Employers Need to Know.” She was followed by Partners Brooke Duncan and [Laurie Young](#) presenting on “Top Tips to Avoid Wage and Hour Potholes.” Partner Jack Pringle presented, “People, Policies and Technology: Protecting Information in a Connected World,” and he was followed by associate [April Caminez Bentley](#) on “The ABCs of Immigration: Immigration Law Every Employer Must Know.”

Partners [Janis van Meerveld](#) and [Michelle Craig](#), pictured above, presented “Expanded ADAAA Coverage: How to Stay Out of Trouble.” Partner [Liz Roussel](#) followed them with a presentation on “Understanding Boundaries: How Far Can Employers Go in Limiting Competition and Solicitation.” Janis and Michelle closed with a presentation on “Recent Trends and Cautionary Tales in Harassment Litigation.”

Jacksonville Women’s “Lean In” Summit Invites Firm’s Clients to Discuss Leadership Issues



Leslie Wickes, Adams and Reese Jacksonville office Partner in Charge, and Jacksonville attorneys Jamie Olinto, Caroline Prieto and Angela Neyer, hosted a group of in-house counsel and women business leaders for a “Lean In” luncheon, an intimate discussion of women leadership across greater Jacksonville, held April 16th at Matthew’s Restaurant.

Adams and Reese Diversity Chair Jaimmé Collins also attended to help facilitate the discussion. The attendees discussed key issues from the book, including culturally in-grained behaviors, salary negotiations, “leaning out” before you’ve left, and the “Leadership Ambition Gap.”

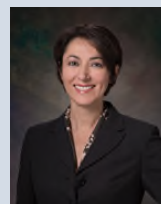
Attendees included Mayo Clinic, Florida Blue, TD Bank, Fidelity Information Systems, and American Enterprise Bank of Florida. One of the most lasting comments was from Suzy Wendel, Comcast VP: “Stay Relevant.”

Welcome to our New Adams and Reese Attorneys



[Pamela Williams](#)

Houston, Partner
Labor and Employment



[Tara Naufal](#)

Columbia, Partner
Transactions



[Lindsey Livingston](#)

Columbia, Partner
Transactions



[Dawn Hardesty](#)

Columbia, Associate
Transactions

Celebrating 25 Years at Adams and Reese



[Janis van Meerveld](#)

New Orleans, Partner
Labor and Employment

Since joining Adams and Reese in 1989, Janis van Meerveld has been a driving force on the firm's labor and employment team, helping clients manage the investigative, administrative and judicial phases with less disruption to their businesses. She has been named among Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers in Labor and Employment Law. Janis is active in the community, serving on the board of Boys Hope Girls Hope and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.



[Kathleen Drew](#)

New Orleans, Partner
Litigation

Kathleen Drew joined Adams and Reese in 1989 and leads the Asbestos Litigation team. She focuses her practice on toxic tort, product liability and class action litigation. Kathleen has defended toxic tort and product litigation across the nation. She ranks in Louisiana Super Lawyers® - Environmental and Toxic Tort. Kathleen serves on LSU Law School's Alumni Board of Directors and the Louisiana Environmental Roundtable.

Nashville Music Row Partners Edell Howard, Morrow Named Among Industry's Best

Adams and Reese Nashville Music Row Partners [Linda Edell Howard](#) and [Lynn Morrow](#) are featured in Nashville entertainment industry publication *MusicRow's InCharge*, an 88-page industry resource serving as the definitive collection of the Music Row industry's gatekeepers and key decision-making professionals within the Nashville entertainment community. Each of the 426 profiles includes contact information, updated career biography, and detailed membership affiliations for the influential executives in the Nashville Music Row industry.

For 15 years, Linda and Lynn have practiced entertainment and intellectual property law on Music Row and have catapulted the Adams and Reese Nashville Music Row office into one of the most well-respected and experienced full-service entertainment firms. Music Row clients include GRAMMY® award-winning songwriters and artists, the estates of legendary celebrities, Nashville music publishers, managers, producers, authors, Churches and Ministries, cutting-edge digital music companies and merchandisers, banks and unions.



Pictured from left: Linda Edell Howard, Sam Bartholomew and Lynn Morrow founded the original Nashville Music Row office in 2001. The Adams and Reese entertainment practice has been ranked No. 1 in Tennessee for five consecutive years by Chambers USA.

Columbia Attorneys Selected Among South Carolina Super Lawyers, Rising Stars

Adams and Reese Columbia Partner [Tara Nauful](#), pictured top right, was named among the *South Carolina Super Lawyers*, while Columbia Partner [Lindsey Livingston](#), pictured bottom right, was selected among the *South Carolina Rising Stars*. Both were selected in the practice area of Bankruptcy Law.

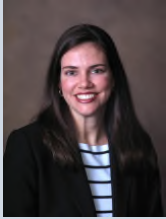
Only five percent of attorneys in South Carolina receive the honor of Super Lawyer. The selection process includes peer nominations, review by a blue-ribbon panel and independent research.

Rising Stars are lawyers who are 40 or under, or who have been practicing for 10 years or less.

The two attorneys were listed in the *South Carolina Super Lawyers* magazine, published in April.



Adams and Reese Attorneys Promoted to Partner



Tricia Olson
Nashville
Litigation



Laura Whitmore
Tampa
Litigation



**Victoria White
Baudier**
New Orleans
Transactions

Adams and Reese Hosts Women's Partners Dinner

In conjunction with the annual Adams and Reese Partnership Meeting in New Orleans, the Women Partners started a new tradition of their own by meeting for the 1st Annual Women's Initiatives Partnership Dinner on February 24th at Tableau Restaurant in New Orleans. Seventy Partners attended the event.

Pictured (bottom row from left): Adams and Reese Partners Tiffany Dilorio and Tara Nauful; (top from left): Kimberly Madison, Victoria White Baudier, Lee Ann Tranford, Karen MacFarland, Rebecca Wissler and Michelle Craig.



Roussel Named New Orleans Partner in Charge

Adams and Reese Partner [Liz Roussel](#) has been selected Partner in Charge of the firm's New Orleans office, effective January 1, 2014. The firm has 16 Partners in Charge, one for each of its offices across the southern United States and Washington DC. Liz joins Paige Sensenbrenner, New Orleans Senior Partner in Charge, on the Adams and Reese New Orleans leadership team.

Liz also is the Firm's Labor and Employment Team Leader. Liz joined Adams and Reese in 2002 and focuses her practice in the areas of labor and employment litigation, commercial litigation and director and officer liability claims litigation. Liz frequently conducts labor and employment seminars across the nation for clients.

Liz was named among the Women of the Year by *New Orleans CityBusiness* in 2011. She is a member of the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute, Class of 2013-2014.

In the community, Liz is the immediate Past Chair of the board of directors for the Children's Bureau of New Orleans. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Longue Vue House and Gardens.



"Born and raised in New Orleans, I am excited about the opportunity to lead our New Orleans office in continuing to make a positive impact on our City as a better place to work and live."

- Liz Roussel

Wickes Named Jacksonville Partner in Charge

Adams and Reese Special Counsel [Leslie Wickes](#) has been elected Partner in Charge of the firm's Jacksonville office. Adams and Reese launched its Jacksonville office in March 2013 when Adams and Reese merged with Volpe, Bajalia, Wickes, Rogerson & Wachs (VBWR) to continue our firm's growth across the state of Florida, adding Jacksonville as its fifth Florida office location.

Practicing law since 1993, Leslie focuses in the area of insurance company and agency regulation and in the area of business litigation, involving all matters of contracting, corporate governance, employment and agency, and trade practices.

Leslie has been named by *Florida Trend* magazine among Florida's "Legal Elite" and also listed in Florida Super Lawyers® -Business Litigation.

Leslie is Past President of the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association.

In the community, she has served on the Board of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of North Florida.



"I am honored to be selected by my peers and firm leadership to serve as Partner in Charge of our Jacksonville office. Jacksonville continues to emerge as a growing market in Florida, and we look forward to being a part of that economic growth and serving our clients across various industries."

- Leslie Wickes

NOTABLE FIRM RECOGNITIONS – WOMEN IN LAW

- Diversity Human Rights Award
Louisiana State Bar Association 2014
- Top 200 Law Firms for Women Equity Partners
American Lawyer Media 2012
- Corporate Counsel Women of Color Diversity Award of Excellence
Corporate Counsel Women of Color® 2011

FIRM HISTORY



[Ann Huckstep](#), pictured with Managing Partner Chuck Adams, was the first woman to serve as Chair of the Adams and Reese Executive Committee, when she was elected in 2006. For more than 25 years, Ann has practiced in health care, real estate and corporate law. Ann is a Partner in Birmingham.

Pro Bono Spotlight ...

Martin Helps Single Mother in Divorce Case

Adams and Reese Tampa associate [Stephanie Martin](#) worked over 60 pro bono hours on a family law appellate case she received as a member of the Florida Bar Appellate Practice Section's Pro Bono Committee. Stephanie represented a single mother of three children. During the bulk of her 20+ year marriage, this mother stayed at home to care for the children. After her husband filed for divorce, she was hired as a teacher's aide in the public school system, but only received a salary of \$14,000 per year. Following trial, her husband filed an appeal. As she could no longer afford her legal bills, Stephanie stepped in to help.



On appeal, the husband sought to overturn the trial court's judgment awarding the mother alimony and attorneys' fees and requiring the former husband to designate the mother as beneficiary to his military life insurance policy until all of their children reached the age of majority. Stephanie helped obtain a favorable ruling from the Second District Court of Appeals in Florida, which affirmed the trial court's award of alimony and attorneys' fees. With respect to the life insurance, the appeals court remanded the case for the trial court to determine whether a forced beneficiary designation could be made under federal law for the particular military insurance policy involved; if such a forced designation could not be made, the appeals court stated that the trial court could compel the former husband to obtain a separate life insurance policy for the benefit of the mother and the children.

This ruling provided much-needed closure in a difficult situation and afforded the mother and her children with the monetary support they so desperately needed.

In the Community ...

Grand Elected President of Boys Hope Girls Hope Baton Rouge

Adams and Reese associate [Melissa Grand](#) has been elected the new president and board chair for Boys Hope Girls Hope Baton Rouge (BHGH). As a member of the board since 2011, Melissa has an extensive history of service to the organization. BHGH is a residential scholar program that helps academically capable and motivated children-in-need meet their full potential.



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For additional information, please see the firm website at www.adamsandree.com.

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