

Sara E. Barnett



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Sara E. Barnett is a partner with Spragins, Barnett & Cobb, and has been practicing law for over 20 years. Ms. Barnett joined Spragins, Barnett & Cobb in 2001, where she practices with her father, Charles Barnett and her younger brother, Chas Barnett, who is an associate in the firm. The Barnetts often work together on cases as a team. Sara started her practice as a trial lawyer but now focuses her practice on elder law, estate planning, and family law. Sara is dedicated to the success of the Firm's clients and knows that many are going through some of most difficult times in their lives. Sara strives to communicate with her clients in a clear, compassionate, and knowledgeable way to make it easier for clients to understand the legal process and help to comfort them.

Sara is the managing partner of the firm's Estate Planning and Family Law Group. She has experience in areas of life care planning, elder law, senior law, and estate planning including TennCare/Medicaid planning,

conservatorships, probate administration, and elder abuse. She is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. She also has handled various areas of litigation practicing on behalf of plaintiffs and defendants in various areas of litigation including family law, divorce, adoption, child custody and child support. In 2017, Sara was recognized by the American Institute of Family Law Attorneys for exceptional and outstanding client service as a top 10 in the State of Tennessee.

Sara has been given Martindale-Hubbell's highest peer review rating of AV, which is the group's highest honor and is a testament to the fact that Ms. Barnett's peers rank her at the highest level of professional excellence and ethical standards. Sara has also been honored to be selected as a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. The Fellows comprise a global honorary society of attorneys, judges, law faculty, and legal scholars whose public and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the highest principles of the legal profession and to the welfare of their communities. Membership in the Fellows is limited to one percent of lawyers licensed to practice in each jurisdiction. Fellows are recommended by their peers and elected by the Board of the American Bar Foundation.

Sara is a lifelong resident of Jackson, Tennessee, and is an avid tennis player. Sara is also actively involved in giving back to her community. She is the President of the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Jackson, which is an organization that believes that the youth of our community can have a bright future fostered through guidance, love, self-discipline and unconditional support. In an effort to help them pursue their purpose and set meaningful goals, the Club provides a safe place to learn and grow. Youth have the opportunity to be successful by building positive healthy habits and skills to be productive, responsible and caring citizens.

If you are interested in the important work being done by the Boys & Girls Club of Jackson, please click here: <https://www.bgcjmc.org/>

Sara has also been appointed as a Commissioner to the Tennessee Access to Justice Commission, which works to develop and implement policy and initiatives to assist the Tennessee Supreme Court, lawyers, law schools, legal services organizations & pro bono programs in providing meaningful access to the justice system for poor, vulnerable & underserved individuals. If you are interested in learning more about the important work of the Commission, please click here: <https://justiceforalltn.org/about/>

Because of her passion for tennis and importance of sports for kids and adults, Sara has been involved both on the local and national level with the United States Tennis Association, which is the governing body of the sport of tennis. Sara was president of the local non-profit community tennis association, Jackson West-TN Tennis Association. She is also the President of the Board of Directors of the United States Tennis Association for Tennessee (USTA TN) and several committees for the United States Southern Tennis Association and on National committees. Sara has been awarded Volunteer of the Year (2017) and Local League Coordinator of the Year (2019) by USTA TN. If you are interested in learning about these tennis organizations and their mission to make tennis accessible to all, please click here:

<https://jwttatennis.com/>

<https://www.ustatn.com/>

<https://www.usta.com>

Practice Areas

- Estate Planning
- Elder Law/Medicaid (TennCare) Planning
- Family Law/Divorce/Child Custody
- Adoption
- Eminent Domain/Condemnation
- Estates/Wills/Trust
- Civil Litigation

Education

- **Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law**, Memphis, Tennessee
 - J.D., Doctor of Jurisprudence - 05/2001
 - Honors: *cum laude*
 - Honors: Research Assistant and Participated in Moot Court and Mock Trial
- **Union University**
 - B.S., Bachelor of Science - 05/1997

Bar Admissions

- Tennessee – all courts
- U.S. District Court Western District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court Middle District of Tennessee
- U.S. Court of Appeals 6th Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas

Honors

- AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell, highest honors
- Fellow of the American Bar Foundation
- Commissioner of the Tennessee Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission
- 10.0 – Top Rated Attorney on Avvo.com
- 2017 American Institute of Family Lawyers Association 10 Best in Client Satisfaction

- Pro Bono Volunteer Award, presented by West Tennessee Legal Services, Inc.
- Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Graduate
- Dean's Award for Best Memorandum
- Dean's Award for Academic Excellence, Federal Courts A
- Cali Award Excellence for the Future, Federal Courts A
- USTA TN Volunteer of the Year 2017
- USTA TN Local League Coordinator of the Year 2019

Professional Associations

- Tennessee Bar Association, Member of Elder Law and Family Law sections
- National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
- American Inns of Court – Howell Edmunds Jackson Chapter – Master and Secretary/Treasurer
- Jackson-Madison County Bar Association, Member
- American Bar Association, Member
- Elder Counsel
- Tennessee Legal Association of Women

Publications

- “What We Learned about the Practice of Law and Ourselves from the Novel Coronavirus” - co-Author, The Benchers, 2020
- “Determining Admissibility of Evidence,” National Business Institute Seminar, 2014
- “Witnesses- Qualification, Depositions, and Impeachment,” National Business Institute Seminar 2014
- “A Primer on Tennessee Workers’ Compensation Law following the Major Amendment,” National Business Institute Seminar, 2008

Fraternities or Sororities

- Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity
- Zeta Tau Alpha