



Corporate lawyer Barbara Dunn advises nonprofits and related entities on the unique laws impacting tax-exempt organizations. She is also nationally known for her practice in the hospitality industry, assisting groups with their meeting and trade show contracts. Barbara is valued for her no-nonsense, responsive approach to problem-solving and client service.

Co-Chair of the firm's Associations & Foundations Practice Group, Barbara is relied upon by clients and colleagues alike for her innovative approach to nonprofit and tax-exempt legal matters. She remains at the forefront of current trends in this area of the law and advises clients on meetings, hospitality and travel law; contracts; employment law; computer, trademark and copyright law; litigation and risk management; administrative law; taxes; antitrust; and governance matters.

Barbara also counsels a wide variety of clients in the travel, tourism, hospitality, incentive, and meetings industries. She represents both businesses and nonprofit organizations regarding the negotiation and documentation of contracts for major events, conferences, trade shows and the like on a local, regional, national and international scale.

Known for her depth in the law and candid communication style, pragmatism and workable solutions are at the core of Barbara's commitment to those she serves. With more than a quarter century of experience, Barbara does not reinvent the wheel, saving her clients valuable time and money. Her ability to work with a variety of personalities and reconcile different points of view when resolving complex issues and difficult disputes is among Barbara's greatest strengths. Barbara's strong communication skills and sense of humor make her a highly sought commentator on issues affecting nonprofit corporations and hospitality organizations alike.

Barbara has been involved in a variety of leadership positions in organizations that serve the associations and hospitality industries. She was the first woman to serve in a leadership role as chair of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) Legal Section Council in

Barbara F. Dunn

Partner

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EDUCATION

John Marshall Law School, (J.D.), 1992,
editorial board of The John Marshall Law
Review

University of Michigan, (B.A.), political
science, 1989

BAR ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia
Illinois
Missouri

COURT ADMISSIONS

Illinois Supreme Court
Missouri Supreme Court
U.S. District Court for the Northern
District of Illinois

LANGUAGES

English

PRACTICES

Corporate
Environmental, Social and Governance

INDUSTRIES

Associations and Foundations
Education
Entertainment
Fraternities and Sororities
Media

2005-2006.

Prior to joining Barnes & Thornburg, Barbara was a partner at the law firm of Howe & Hutton Ltd., where she practiced for more than 20 years.

Professional and Community Involvement

Immediate Past President, Academy of Hospitality Industry Attorneys;
President (2017-2019); Board Member (2013-2020)

Member, Illinois State Bar Association

Member, Missouri Bar Association

Volunteer, Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

Former chair, Chicago Bar Association Trade and Professional
Association Committee

Former board and executive committee member, American Brain Tumor
Association

Honors

Crain's Chicago Notable Gen X Leaders in Law, 2021

Nonprofit

Sports