

MEMBER

# ALLYSON BAKER

Partner, Chair,  
Financial Services Practice, Venable LLP



## **WHF Member Spotlight – September 2020**

### **Partner, Chair, Financial Services Practice, Venable LLP**

#### **Hometown**

**Washington, D.C.**

#### **What do you love most about what you do?**

I love helping my clients solve their most difficult problems, figure out interesting ways to solve those problems and to manage risk as they grow and develop new business lines, products and services. I also really love going to trial and arguing appeals.

#### **Hobby(ies)?**

I have been a runner since high school, so that must count as a hobby. I love to cook. I love theater and live music (when there isn't a pandemic). I also love to travel and I love planning my vacations.

#### **How long have you been a member of WHF?**

I have been a WHF member for more than 7 years.

#### **Please describe your involvement with WHF.**

I have had the good fortune of sitting on the WHF Foundation Board for the last two years.

#### **What have you gained from being a member?**

I have met interesting, dynamic and smart financial services professionals in D.C. I also have really enjoyed being a member of an organization with a mission of empowering women in the financial services world (not to the exclusion of men, of course!).

#### **How do you make the best use of your day? (think techniques to enhance productivity, time management, time out, meditation/prayer, etc.)**

My mornings set the tone for the rest of my day: My two young sons wake me up each day when I am not on the road traveling. Their wake-up calls are the best possible way to start the day – a way to count blessings, practice gratitude and remember what matters most. I then read work emails, make a mental list of what I must accomplish that day, make scrambled eggs for my family, coffee for me and my husband, and then, go on a run a few times a week.

#### **Who or what inspires you?**

My mother inspires me. She has been an investment broker my entire life, and she was among the first women of her generation to work in finance.

When I was a young girl, my mother taught me what all girls need to know: how to understand the markets, which used to involve reading newspaper listings of stock prices (before the Internet).

And it wasn't until I was much older – in college really – that I realized how my mom had inspired me to be my own person. She had a job that most mom's didn't have in the 1970's and 1980's when I was growing up. I have watched my mother have this amazing career in financial services, which she has found to be tremendously engaging. But she also has been an amazing mom. More than anyone I know: she has inspired me to have an intense career that I really love but also to balance that with being a mother to two wonderful little boys.

My mom's life lessons that I carry with me: First, your family is always first, no matter what. Second, love what you do and it will never feel like work. Three, women should always understand money and control their financial lives.

**What is the best advice you have ever received?**

A few things, really: 1. Take people as you find them. 2. If you can be anything, be kind. 3. How someone treats you when that person doesn't think you can help them is a measure of that person's integrity.