

NashvillePost

LEADERS 2023



STANDING FIRM

*NASHVILLE'S LEGAL INDUSTRY
IS CHANGING AS NATIONAL
FIRMS COME TO TOWN*

Connecting the dots

*Rebuilding a hub for
entrepreneurial women*

In Charge

*Our annual list includes
a new feature*



Mike Abelow

case has credibility,” Abelow says. “Not only that, but I also want someone’s attention and focus. I don’t want to be passed off to someone else in a city or market who doesn’t know me and doesn’t know my business. By staying Sherrard Roe, we know we can provide that high level of service that’s also efficient.”

Stabell focuses her decision on the needs of her clients — private Nashville companies in the \$5-\$10 million range for annual revenue.

“Our clients like us because we’re entrepreneurs, too,” she says. “We resemble them and if we’re going to stop looking like them, then it’s going to create a disconnect.”

But there’s a disconnect of another type that looms over Nashville’s changing legal landscape. Implicit in any announcement of a local outlet merging upstream is this: Legal fees will likely rise. If they do, it may be that legacy clients will be locked into old-Nashville rates. Or, it may mean that those clients would be better served by a different firm.

Stabell, who spent the first

10 years of her legal career as a corporate and transactional attorney at Frost Brown Todd and then Waller, is preparing for the latter. “I’m excited for my friends in Big Law and the opportunities they have to work on even bigger deals. At the same time, I’m grateful for the opportunities they’re opening up for me.”

As smaller and mid-size firms wait for this work that could be flowing downstream, recruiting high-quality talent is both a priority and a challenge as they compete with bigger firms.

Among new attorneys, the deck seems stacked in favor of big firms that can offer the highest salaries but will also demand more billable hours.

“Law school is an expensive proposition, and a higher starting salary means you can pay off your loans as quickly as possible,” says Nicholas Alexion, associate director of career services at Vanderbilt Law School.

What’s more, he says, starting at a big firm is appealing to first-year associates because it can maximize their options later.

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LEADERS

David Grams

CEO, Compassus: Former president of the Brentwood-based home health care, infusion, palliative and hospice services provider was promoted to CEO in 2021.

David Guth

CEO, Centerstone: Co-founded nonprofit behavioral health provider specializing in mental health and substance use disorder treatment and has steadily grown its footprint through acquisitions.

Brian Haile

CEO, Neighborhood Health: Former TennCare deputy COO and Jackson Hewitt exec took the helm of the nonprofit in 2017. Haile and the organization were at the center of the city's COVID testing and vaccine efforts.

Jay Hardcastle

Partner, Bradley Arant Boult Cummings: Former Boult Cummings managing director and veteran health care adviser works with providers on M&A, joint ventures, Medicare/Medicaid issues and whistleblower defenses.

Sam Hazen

CEO, HCA Healthcare: Took reins from Milton Johnson at city's most prominent health care company in 2019 after two years as president. The company announced several leadership changes as part of organizational restructuring in 2022.

James Hildreth

President and CEO, Meharry Medical College: Began leading one of the nation's oldest and largest historically Black academic health science centers in 2015. School played an integral part in pandemic responses locally and nationally while looking to expand its offerings.

Tim Hingtgen

CEO, Community Health Systems: Took the top job in 2021 after joining the company in 2008. Predecessor Wayne Smith retired from the CHS lead board spot in 2022.

Angela Humphreys

Member, Bass Berry & Sims: Leads firm's health care practice group where she works on health care mergers and acquisitions, operational matters and finance. Also serves as co-chair of the firm's health care private equity team.

Christopher Hunter

CEO, Acadia Healthcare: In April 2022 was named to succeed Debbie Os-teen at the Franklin-based behavioral health company that continues a run

of acquisitions and joint ventures. Previously held positions at Humana, TriZetto and BlueCross BlueShield.

Harry Jacobson

Co-Founder and Partner, TriStar Health Partners: Serial entrepreneur and former VUMC CEO founded more than 10 companies and mentored a number of others. Works with multiple investment firms, including Iroquois Capital.

Shubhada Jagasia

President and CEO, Ascension Saint Thomas Midtown and West Hospitals: Former VUMC adult hospital chief of staff oversaw recent \$300 million "Midtown Modernization," including a women's care emergency department and rehab hospital.

Alex Jahangir

Chairman, Metro Board of Health: Vanderbilt trauma surgeon turned local household name as lead of city's COVID-19 task force. Released book in 2022 detailing the city's response.

Michele Johnson

Executive Director and Co-Founder, Tennessee Justice Center: Runs nonprofit open since 1996, advocating for TennCare expansion, access to health care and other basic needs.

Bill Kampine

Co-Founder and Chief Innovation Officer, Healthcare Bluebook: Helps lead Brentwood-based company focused on cost transparency via health care "shopping" database. Previously held positions with CareSteps and Healthways.

Stephanie Kang

Bureau Director of Health Equity, Metro Public Health Department: Former health policy director at the federal level who took the helm of bureau formed to address social determinants of health in 2021.

A.J. Kazimi

President and CEO, Cumberland Pharmaceuticals: Founder and inaugural CEO of the company since 1999. The company's value jumped in late 2021 when the FDA approved its ibuprofen injection.

Karen Lewis

Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Diversity, Belmont College of Medicine: Thirty-year student affairs and diversity veteran who has held roles at Meharry and other medical colleges. Part of the founding leadership team for the Christian medical college set to welcome students in fall 2024.

Wendy Long

President and CEO, Tennessee Hospital Association: Former TennCare chief and Metro Public Health Department director who earned her current title in 2019. Organization recently focused on health care workforce shortages.

Richard Manson

CEO, SourceMark: Attorney who was appointed head of the health care and retail pharmacy product company in 2010. In 2022 was elected board chair of Metro Hospital Authority Board, which is overseeing the push for a future Nashville General replacement.

Charlie Martin

Chairman, Martin Ventures: Veteran hospital company exec returned to investment firm focused on technology in health care. Previously held roles at HCA and HealthTrust, Inc. and was CEO of Vanguard Health.

Phil Mazzuca

CEO, Williamson Medical Center: Former CHS operations exec took lead at the hospital company's flagship location in 2021. Recently added emergency medical services in Nolensville, WMC now has more than 30 locations.

Russ Miller

CEO, Tennessee Medical Association: Organization veteran was promoted to chief executive role of the advocacy organization in 2013. Recently the association has been pushing for scope of practice preservation and physician insurance reimbursement issues.

Frank Morgan

VP of Investor Relations, HCA Healthcare: Former J.C. Bradford partner moved to internal investor relations in 2021 after career as an outside health care analyst at RBC Capital and Jeffries.

Jeff Patton

President and CEO, OneOncology: Hematologist and oncologist who also serves as president of physician services for the cancer care network. Former longtime leader of Tennessee Oncology.

Clay Phillips

Senior VP of Strategy and Managed Care, Summit BHC: Spent 15 years at BlueCross before joining behavioral health company last year.

Mark Phillips

Chief Nursing Officer, Ascension Saint Thomas: Came from Texas health systems to lead the hospital company's area locations.