

**SEARCY DENNEY
SCAROLA BARNHART & SHIPLEY PA**
Attorneys at Law
A Passion for Justice™



Rosalyn "Sia" Baker-Barnes is a Shareholder at Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A., and the Chairperson of the firm's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee. Ms. Baker-Barnes is Board-Certified in Civil Trial Law by the Florida Bar, and is recognized by *US News & World Report* as one of the "Best Lawyers in America," by *Lawdragon* as one of America's "500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers," by *Florida Super Lawyers* magazine as a top lawyer in the state, by *Florida Trend* magazine as a "Legal Elite," and by the *Daily Business Review* as one of South Florida's Inaugural "Top 20 Women in Law."

In her over 20-year career, she has successfully pursued justice for victims in personal injury, medical negligence and product liability cases and frequently lectures throughout the United States on catastrophic injury cases. She has achieved numerous multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements, including a landmark \$20 million compensatory and punitive damages verdict against tobacco giant RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company that was affirmed by the Florida Supreme Court and reached the United States Supreme Court.

Committed to professionalism, civility and service, Ms. Baker-Barnes serves on The Florida Bar Board of Governors, representing the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. The board is responsible for formulating policies that govern the more than 110,000 members of The Florida Bar. She is the Chairperson of the Program Evaluation Committee, Co-Chair of the Special Committee on Changes to the Practice of Law, and Chair-Elect of the Legislative Committee. She also serves on the board's Executive and Strategic Planning Committees, and is active in The Florida Bar's Trial Lawyers Section, where she serves as a member of its Executive Council. She is the 2022 recipient of one of the Florida Bar's highest honors, the Henry T. Latimer Diversity Award, for her long time commitment to diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

Ms. Baker-Barnes is a past president of the Palm Beach County Bar Association (PBCBA), an organization comprising nearly 3,000 lawyers. As the 95th President, she was the first African-American female to serve in this role. Her signature program was "You've Been Served: Lawyers Answering the Summons to Community Service," designed to emphasize the importance of community service and recognize the positive impact lawyers make in their communities and beyond. She is a recipient of the PBCBA's Judge Edward Rodgers Diversity Award, given to an individual who exhibits visionary and insightful leadership to resolve inequities in the legal community and the community at large.

She is the Co-Founder and Inaugural President of the Palm Beach County Sheree Davis Cunningham Black Women Lawyers Association, founded in 2021 to provide mentorship, support and guidance, and to promote and encourage its members to seek positions of leadership at every level.

An accomplished trial lawyer, Ms. Baker-Barnes is also a member of the International Society of Barristers, the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), the Palm Beach County Justice

Association, and the Florida Justice Association (FJA). She served as Chair of the FJA Young Lawyers Section in 2008 and is a past member of its Board of Directors. She currently serves as the FJA's Board of Governors Liaison and is active in its Minority Caucus.

Ms. Baker-Barnes is a proud long-time member of the F. Malcolm Cunningham, Sr. Bar Association, where she serves as chapter advisor, and the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (PBC FAWL). She is a recipient of PBC FAWL's highest honor, the prestigious Justice Barbara J. Pariente Award, which is presented to an individual or organization demonstrating a strong commitment to promoting women in the legal community. This award is named in honor of retired Florida Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente, who exemplifies the qualities and attributes associated with the honor.

A life member of the National Bar Association (NBA), she is a past recipient of both the organization's Presidential Award and of the NBA's "Nation's Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40" award, which recognizes talented individuals who have achieved prominence and distinction and demonstrated their commitment to empowering, uplifting, and advocating within the legal community. Baker-Barnes is also a life member of the Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of the NBA.

In addition to her legal involvement, Ms. Baker-Barnes is dedicated to improving the community at-large. She is a board member of the Forum Club of the Palm Beaches, past chair of the Board of Directors of the Inlet Grove Community High School, Inc.; a past president of the West Palm Beach Chapter of The Links, Incorporated; and a past chairperson of the Southern Area Links Ethics & Standards Committee. Ms. Baker-Barnes is a past fellow of The Links, Inc.'s international Scott-Hawkins Leadership Institute. She is proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (Zeta Tau Omega Chapter) and the Palm Beach Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. In recognition of her leadership in the community at large, she was awarded the Florida Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Jurisprudence Award.

Ms. Baker-Barnes earned her law degree from the Florida State University College of Law, where she was awarded the prestigious Virgil Hawkins Fellowship for academic achievement. At the College of Law, she was a member of the Moot Court Team. Selected as one of the "Final Four," as a first-year law student she argued before the justices of the Florida Supreme Court. In recognition of her excellence in advocacy, she was inducted into the Order of the Barristers. Following her graduation, she served on the board of directors of the Florida State University College of Law Alumni Association. She currently serves as a charter board member of the FSU College of Law's Black Alumni Network (BAN), where she chairs its Racial Justice Advocacy Committee and is the Florida Bar Board of Governors Liaison. She regularly mentors current and prospective law students.

Ms. Baker-Barnes earned her undergraduate degree in Communication from Florida State University, where she achieved Dean's List recognition. She was selected as an intern for former Governor Lawton Chiles in his Executive Office of Communication and completed an undergraduate cooperative program in Journalism at Florida A&M University. She resides in West Palm Beach with her husband, Attorney Edrick E. Barnes, and their three children, Selia, Emri and Edan Barnes. They are frequent volunteers at their children's school, The King's Academy, with the Boy Scouts of America Pack 116 Scouting Troop and are active members of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church.