

## Margaret L. Behm

Partner, Dodson, Parker & Behm  
Nashville, TN

Margaret L. Behm was the co-founder, in 1980, of Shipley & Behm, the first all-woman law firm in Nashville, and has focused her professional expertise on legislation, civic service, and political action with particular emphasis on women from all walks of life. Recognized for her vision, savvy, and unselfish support of others, Ms.



Behm has drafted legislation, which was enacted, to extend group health insurance benefits after divorce, death of a spouse, or job termination for pregnancy and child support. In 1991, her successful lawsuit, *Scales v. J. C. Bradford & Co.*, struck a blow to the "glass ceiling."

Since 1988, Ms. Behm has been in her current partnership and has also lectured at Vanderbilt University School of Law. She is a former instructor at Southeastern Institute for Paralegal Education, Inc. (1985); legal clinic instructor, Vanderbilt University School of Law (1981-82); and staff attorney, Legal Services of Middle Tennessee, Inc., Consumer Section (1977-80) and Domestic Relations Section (1976-77).

She is the 1992 recipient of the Athena Award and the 1991 recipient of CABLE's Promote Women Award which recognize her role in the advancement of women in Tennessee's judiciary.

She has been a leader in political campaigns, including those of Marietta Shipley for circuit court judge, Martha Craig Daughtrey for the Tennessee Supreme Court, and Albert Gore Jr., for U.S. Senate and president. She is an active member of the Tennessee, Nashville, and American Bar Associations; both the Lawyers' and Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women; the Tennessee Appellate Court Nominating Commission; and numerous community and women's business organizations. Ms. Behm writes a consumer law column, "The Law and You," for the *Citizenne*, a free Nashville newspaper targetting women readers.

Ms. Behm graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1973 and attended that university's College of Law on a Judge George C. Taylor Scholarship. She earned her J.D. in 1976. She is the mother of two children.