

# RACHAEL RUIZ

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AGE → **39**

## Do you have a career mentor? If so, what's one lesson that's stayed with you?

I am fortunate to have many career mentors who are both my advocates and my friends. I've learned that a good mentor will happily give career advice. A great mentor will not only provide advice and guidance but will also lift you up by advocating for you behind closed doors. It is one thing to teach someone key skills; it is quite another to provide an opportunity to let those skills shine.

## What's your one hope for Chattanooga?

I hope Chattanooga continues to be a place that my daughters would want to return to after seeing the world. Like many in town, I am a Chattanooga "boomerang" — I grew up here, left for college and other adventures. After visiting and living in many parts of the world, I ultimately came back to Chattanooga because it is a great place to live and raise a family. I hope the same remains true decades from now.

## In what ways are you seeing AI change the work you do?

AI can be a great tool, but I think many people

are finding that it creates the illusion of efficiency, while in reality creating more work. We still need to take the time to check its hallucinations both in legal research and in contracts. In my day-to-day work, we receive contracts that were drafted by AI. While they may appear professional at first glance, it actually takes more work to redraft them than a contract originally drafted by an attorney.

## What's a fun fact about you that most people wouldn't know?

I received a football scholarship to Tulane University. No, I was not the kicker — I was an equipment manager!

## What's the last book you read or movie/series you watched?

"The Power" by Naomi Alderman

## If you could add one thing to the city, what would it be — and why?

I would love an international food hall with restaurant options from all over the world.



Rachael Ruiz is a partner at Miller & Martin PLLC, where she focuses on commercial real estate transactions and nonprofit governance. She represents developers, lenders, and corporate clients in property acquisitions, leasing, financing, restrictive covenants, and complex closings and serves as general counsel for multiple Chattanooga nonprofit organizations. She has been recognized in "Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch" and as a Mid-South Super Lawyers Rising Star. A former Peace Corps volunteer in Nicaragua, she is active in conservation work through board service with the Lula Lake Land Trust and previous service with the Chattanooga Audubon Society.