

# BIOGRAPHY

## Yolanda L. Taylor

**Yolanda L. Taylor** is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Wake Forest Law School and the lead attorney at the law firm, Yolanda L. Taylor Law Firm, PLLC d/b/a The Center for Community Law and Equity. She practices in the areas of Housing Justice, Health Equity, Affordable Housing and Community Economic Development law. As an adjunct professor of law, Ms. Taylor teaches law through the lens of justice in America and how justice relates to concepts like, "Power," and "Oppression." Her students engage in community lawyering that supports grassroots residents and their social movements. Ms. Taylor helps students build a lens for racial justice equity while they use their legal skills to support residents' push against inequitable zoning, gentrification, and development in their neighborhoods.

Ms. Taylor previously worked at Legal Aid of North Carolina, where she worked for thirteen years, most recently as a managing attorney, supervising the delivery of legal services. Her work at Legal Aid built her passion for helping marginalized and resource-deprived communities. Currently, Ms. Taylor's client segments include affordable housing developers, municipalities, grassroots coalitions, business start-ups, nonprofits, and community-based groups. She's also a sought-after speaker, equity strategist and policy attorney.

Ms. Taylor has been described as a bright and creative lawyer who is solution oriented. Some of her accomplishments include co-launching an Eviction Diversion project in Wilson NC, with city leaders in Wilson Forward to examine the high eviction filings and the high percentage of cost burdened renters. She also led Legal Aid in partnering with a health clinic and community-based organizations around issues involving racial housing segregation, and health equity. While at Legal Aid, Ms. Taylor used her legal expertise in support of grassroots residents in Rocky Mount, NC resulting in institutional changes in the way the city addressed the housing and fair housing needs of residents. In 2019, Ms. Taylor was named a *Leader In the Law* by Lawyers Weekly magazine, for her work with communities. In the same year she was a recipient of the NC Women Attorneys Association's *Gwyneth B. Davis Award for Public Service*. Then in 2020, Ms. Taylor, along with her staff of CED attorneys was recognized for her racial justice equity work as part of the "Transforming Rocky Mount" cohort. The Transforming Rocky Mount cohort is a collaboration funded by the NC Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation which focuses on community-centered health. Most recently, Ms. Taylor was recognized by the Apex-Raleigh NAACP for her contributions to the African American Community. She has received invitations by various organizations, universities, and policy think tank groups to speak on issues involving equitable budgets, community economic development law, affordable housing, rental assistance, energy justice as it relates to housing and a variety of other topics involving equity.

Ms. Taylor resides in Wake Forest, NC with her husband Eugene Taylor, daughters Sasha (8), Chloe (10), along with their Lab-Pit, Trevor. During her spare time, Ms. Taylor serves as a founding board member of Rolesville Charter Academy, and as the Vice Chair of the African American Cultural Festival of Raleigh and Wake County. She recently transitioned from her role as an Executive Board Member with the Wilson Arts Council d/b/a Wilson Arts. In the past Ms. Taylor has served on the boards of the NC Association of Women Attorneys and the Wake County Women Attorneys Association.

