

# LaSHANDA TAYLOR

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## MEMBERSHIPS

Georgia State Bar, *admitted 1999*  
District of Columbia Bar, *admitted 2000*  
Maryland Bar, *admitted 2007*  
Leadership Trenton, *2006 Fellow*

## PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

*Creating a Causal Connection: From Prenatal Drug Use to Imminent Harm*, 25 NYU Rev. L. Soc. Change 383 (1999)  
*Child Fatality Investigations: Zion Nicholas, Angel Cartagena, Philip O'Donnell*, Office of the Child Advocate (2005)  
*Child Fatality Investigations 2005*, Office of the Child Advocate (2005)  
*Families Under the Supervision of New Jersey's Division of Youth and Family Services: An Examination of Case Practice Performance and Recommendations for Reform*, Office of the Child Advocate (2006)  
*Resurrecting the Parents of Legal Orphans: Un-Terminating Parental Rights* (work in progress)

## TRAININGS AND PRESENTATIONS

Catholic Charities Foster Parent Training, *presenter* (2004)  
The Children's Law Center Adoption, Guardianship and Custody Training, *organizer and presenter* (1999-2004)  
District of Columbia Bar Child Custody Training, *presenter* (2000-2006)  
Foster and Adoptive Parent Advocacy Coalition (FAPAC) Training, *presenter* (2002-2004)  
"Sound Advice" DC cable 19 television show, *guest* (2003)  
Street Law Community Outreach Training, *presenter* (2000)

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

### WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, Washington, DC

*Practitioner-in-Residence, General Practice Clinic*, July 2006-Present  
Supervise casework, co-teach the bi-weekly seminar and case rounds, and engage in course planning and preparation with other faculty. Teach a course, entitled "Juvenile Law: Children's Legal Rights," outside of the clinical curriculum. Participate in the Practitioner-in-Residence Program which provides training in clinical theory and methodology.

### NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE, Trenton, NJ

*Assistant Child Advocate*, November 2004-July 2006  
Served on project team researching issues affecting abused and neglected children. Responded to community concerns regarding system responses to children's issues. Evaluated the performance of state agencies in providing services to families and children throughout the state.

### THE CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER, Washington, DC

*Supervising Attorney/Project Director*, January 2004-November 2004  
Supervised staff attorneys handling adoption, custody, and guardianship cases. Cultivated relationships with pro bono coordinators at area law firms. Developed training materials for the Center's Family Permanency Project. Provided on-going training and mentoring to pro bono attorneys.

### THE CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER, Washington, DC

*Staff Attorney/Project Director*, October 2001-January 2004  
Identified the barriers to adoption of special needs children in District of Columbia foster care system. Trained and mentored pro bono attorneys litigating adoption, custody, and guardianship cases through the Center's Family Permanency Project. Worked with parents of disabled students to obtain appropriate special education services through the public school system. Served as guardian *ad litem* for children in the child abuse and neglect system and advocated for their best interest in legal and administrative proceedings.

**THE CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER**, Washington, DC

*Skadden Fellow*, October 1999-October 2001

Implemented project designed to assist kinship caregivers in obtaining legal permanency for children in their care. Litigated adoption and custody cases in District of Columbia Superior Court. Assisted with the drafting of permanent guardianship legislation.

**FAMILY DEFENSE CLINIC, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**, New York, NY

*Student Attorney*, August 1998-May 1999

Worked under supervision of experienced child welfare attorneys. Litigated family law cases in New York Family Court (Manhattan). Conducted legal research and drafted motion to vacate order terminating client's parental rights.

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**, New York, NY

*Teaching Assistant/Research Assistant (Constitutional Law)*, Professor Derrick Bell, August 1998-May 1999

Provided instructional support by assisting in planning instruction, viewing each class, preparing instructional materials (when needed), tutoring students, and responding to professor and student needs. Conducted research on constitutional law issues.

**THE CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER**, Washington, DC

*Kellogg Child Welfare Law Fellow*, Summer 1998

Attended three-day training at the University of Michigan Law School on representing children and parents. Assisted special education attorney with due process hearings and school placement issues. Researched case law relating to child welfare and prepared memoranda. Observed child neglect (permanency) review hearings and adoption trials.

**DeKALB COUNTY JUVENILE COURT**, Decatur, GA

*Legal Assistant, Child Advocacy Unit*, Summer 1997

Interviewed abused and neglected children and presented findings in detention and adjudicatory hearings. Conducted home evaluations and visited schools, institutions, emergency shelters, and group homes to ensure that children received appropriate services.

**MILBANK, TWEED, HADLEY & McCLOY LLP**, New York, NY

*Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) Intern*, Summer 1996

Worked with attorneys on client-related assignments, including document indexing, document review, and citation checking. Attended SEO summer seminar series featuring presentations by senior partners.

**EDUCATION**

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**, New York, NY

J.D., May 1999

*Honors:* Black Latino Asian Pacific American (BLAPA) Public Interest Scholarship  
Kellogg Child Welfare Law Fellowship  
Public Interest Committee (PIC) Grant  
Root-Tilden-Kern Public Interest Scholarship  
Skadden Fellowship

*Colloquia:* "Shaking the Foundation: Challenging the Child Welfare System" (1998)

*Activities:* High School Law Institute, *constitutional law teacher*  
National Black Law Students Association (BLSA), *community service chair*  
NYU Black Allied Law Students Association (BALSAs), *member*  
Review of Law & Social Change Journal, *colloquium editor*  
Review of Law & Social Change Journal, *review editor*

**SPELMAN COLLEGE**, Atlanta, GA

B.A., English, *summa cum laude*, May 1996