



Hayes Jernigan Finley

Associate

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Hayes focuses her practice on issues surrounding environmental, land use, energy and administrative law. She navigates complex regulatory and political matters for her clients before government agencies, permitting officials and state and federal courts.

Her experience includes representing developers and private businesses in environmental remediation and clean-up activities; negotiating resolutions of environmental enforcement actions; litigation over agricultural exemptions to various environmental regulations; representing local governments and private citizens in water supply planning and surface water disputes; and obtaining local land use and zoning approvals for a wide range of projects. She also has experience with the N.C. Brownfields Program, environmental due diligence and legal opinions for project financing transactions. A growing part of Hayes' practice is in the renewable energy and CleanTech sectors.

Client Resources

Hayes has spoken on the status of renewable energy policy in the southeast at the National Association of Environmental Professionals' Annual Conference in 2018.

Before Fox Rothschild

Hayes was an attorney at Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP, which combined with Fox Rothschild in 2018.

During law school, Hayes was an intern to Justice Cheri Beasley of the Supreme Court of North Carolina and Judge Richard Elmore of the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

Before earning her law degree, Hayes spent two years with the Peace Corps as a Small Enterprise Development and Ecotourism volunteer in Senegal, West Africa.

Beyond Fox Rothschild

In 2019, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper appointed Hayes to the Board of Directors of Advanced Energy, which works to ensure that energy is clean, affordable, reliable, efficient and safe for all people.

Honors & Awards

- Named to *Business North Carolina's* Legal Elite, Environmental (2020)
- Named to the *Triangle Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 list (2018)



Practice Areas

- Litigation
- Real Estate
- Environmental
- Zoning & Land Use
- Energy & Natural Resources
- Energy Regulation & Compliance
- Renewable Energy & Project Development

Bar Admissions

- North Carolina

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of North Carolina
- U.S. District Court, Western District of North Carolina
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit

Education

- North Carolina Central University School of Law (J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2014)
- Sewanee: The University of the South (B.A., 2008)
 - Economics

Memberships

- North Carolina Bar Association
 - Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Section
 - Council Member
 - Member, Clean-up and Waste Committee
 - Zoning, Planning and Land Use Section
 - Council Member

Board of Directors

- Kidznotes
 - Board of Directors (2016-present)
 - Treasurer (2017-2019)
- Advanced Energy (2019-present)