

Professor Yearby Biography

Ruqaiijah Yearby is an Associate Professor at the State University of New York, University at Buffalo Law School and has a joint appointment with the School of Public Health and Health Professionals. While earning her Bachelors of Science in Honors Biology, Professor Yearby wrote a thesis on plant biotechnology and served as a research assistant at the University of Natal in South Africa. While in South Africa, she researched the effects of lead pollution from the use of leaded gasoline on school age children, drafted a questionnaire assessing the cognitive ability of children exposed to lead pollution, and presented her findings to a research committee at the University of Michigan.

In 2000, Professor Yearby earned her Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins and wrote a Masters thesis entitled, *Barriers to Access: Low Income African-American HIV/AIDS Medicaid Patients*. In that same year she earned her law degree from Georgetown, where she was on the Dean's List and contributed to *The State of Health Privacy: An Uneven Terrain* (607 PRACTISING L. INST. 621), which was cited in the Preamble of final privacy regulations for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Before joining the Loyola faculty, she worked at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Chicago as an Assistant Regional Counsel where she represented the federal government in regulatory matters against nursing homes, laboratories, and individual health care providers. She also served as a law clerk for the Honorable Ann Williams of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Prior to joining the SUNY-Buffalo faculty, she was an Assistant Professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, with a joint appointment with Loyola University's Stritch School of Medicine.

Professor Yearby is dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable populations by addressing the lack of equal access to quality health care. Her dedication is evidenced by her research interests, which include bioethics, government health care regulation, public health law, and civil rights law. Professor Yearby has written numerous articles regarding the federal regulation of health care entities particularly nursing homes and research institutions. For instance, in the article entitled, *A Right to No Meaningful Review Under the Due Process Clause: The Aftermath of Judicial Deference to the Federal Administrative Agencies* (16 HEALTH MATRIX 723-783), Professor Yearby analyzes the long-term care regulatory system and notes that the government has over regulated long term care providers without providing an adequate opportunity to challenge the government's findings. Furthermore, in her most recent articles, *Striving for Equal Access and Quality, But Settling for the Status Quo: Is Title VI More Illusory Than Real?* (59 RUTGERS L. REV. 429-496) and *Is It Too Late For Title VI Enforcement?: Seeking Redemption of the Unequal United States' Long Term Care System Through International Means* (9 DEPAUL J. HEALTH CARE L. 971-1004), she reviews the failures of the federal government to address racial disparities and she provides solutions to put an end to racial disparities, particularly in the provision of long-term care services.

Professor Yearby's commitment to improving the lives of the less fortunate is further illustrated by her community service activities. For the last six years, she has volunteered for several charitable organizations including, a charitable hospital that provides care to

low-income children and a charitable organization that provides free tax preparation for low-income Illinois residents. She also served on the Board of a charitable organization that offers financial, emotional, and educational support to domestic violence survivors and their children.