Taylor English’s Youth-Serving Organizations group is dedicated to protecting and enhancing your passion for service. Our attorneys use their industry experience to help safeguard your ability to pursue your mission and serve your clients.

We regularly advise day care centers, camps, mentoring organizations, non-profits, schools and social welfare organizations that work with young people.

We understand that our clients face legal issues unique to their mission. Our attorneys frequently work with organizations to meet their social and financial goals by providing legal counsel on the following matters:

- Compliance with state laws and licensing standards,
- Defense of personal injury and abuse claims,
- Contract disputes, defamation claims and other litigation,
- Internal investigations,
- Employment matters,
- Non-profit governance,
- Risk management, and
- Tax issues.

**ADVICE AND COUNSEL**

Taylor English works with Youth-Serving Organizations to avoid disputes, and to develop proactive policies to avoid claims whenever possible. Our attorneys are experienced in all areas of your business:

- State licensing standards,
- Mandated reporter rules,
- Real estate advice and dispute resolution,
- Risk management,
- Tax advice,
- Copyright and trademark questions,
- Employment issues,
- Americans with Disabilities Act,
- Employment discrimination claims,
- Employee screening, supervision, training, discipline and termination,
- Employment contracts and handbooks,
- Non-profit governance, and
- Response to personal injury and abuse allegations.
LITIGATION

Unfortunately, our clients sometimes find themselves in disputes with state licensing agencies, landlords, employees or parents. We know that the best way to settle a case is to be ready for trial, and we have extensive experience in both dispute resolution and trials. We have successfully defended clients in many venues:

- Federal and state jury trials
- United States Supreme Court
- Federal and state appellate courts
- State administrative hearings

REGULATION

Day care centers, camps, schools, and mentoring groups face a bewildering array of state regulations. The problems only get more complicated when federal rules govern funding, privacy, or discipline. We provide expertise in dealing with bureaucrats and regulations, and help you focus on your mission.

PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

**Lead federal prosecutor in jury trials of rape and child sexual abuse cases along with federal pornography and sex trafficking cases.** Deborah was the federal prosecutor in numerous jury trials of rape and child sexual abuse cases from Cherokee Indian Reservation in western North Carolina. She has also represented plaintiffs in civil rights cases in federal court, and participated in two constitutional claims before the United States Supreme Court.

**Achieved summary judgment for defendant in copyright case involving speech therapy cards.** Defended educational products company in lawsuit alleging infringement of copyrights in cards for assistance with speech therapy. The court granted our motion for summary judgment, finding that there was no infringement of any copyright in the selection and arrangement of Plaintiff’s cards as a matter of law. *Ristuccia v. Super Duper, Inc.*

**Litigation on behalf of youth-serving organizations.** Defense of organizations across the country in personal injury claims, including child sexual abuse; defense of childcare centers throughout Georgia in licensing and general litigation matters. She served as a federal prosecutor, handling crimes against children, and has deep experience in constitutional litigation.

**ACLU action against Atlanta Public Schools.** Represented Atlanta Public Schools in favorably resolving a class action brought by the ACLU that raised federal and state constitutional and statutory claims with respect to the adequacy of education, procedures for assigning and disciplining students, and search practices at alternative high school.

**Hecht v. Laurelbrook Sanitarium and School.** Represented the defendant, a Seventh Day Adventist school and sanitarium, against claims brought by the plaintiff under Tennessee’s workers’ compensation statutes. The
defendant’s defense was based in part under the United States Constitution and the Tennessee Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

**Corporate reorganization and convertible note offering.** Acted as counsel to Dew Learning in a corporate reorganization and recapitalization through which Dew Learning became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dew IT Holdings, LLC ("Holdings"), the former members of Dew Learning exchanged their interests in Dew Learning for membership interests in Holdings, and Holdings was capitalized by the sale of $2.5 million in convertible notes to its majority owners.

**Successfully defended a private school against the invalid application of child labor laws to a vocational program.** Successfully defended a private school against claims by the United States Department of Labor that its vocational program violated child labor laws and obtained an order awarding the school its attorneys’ fees. The favorable opinion from the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals established precedent for all similar schools in the four-state circuit.

**Assisted Centers for Disease Control in preparation of 2007 publication, Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Within Youth-Serving Organizations: Getting Started on Policies and Procedures.** Advised on legal aspects of standards for youth serving organizations in hiring, screening and supervision.

**Appointed by Governor Perdue to Board of Georgia Department Human Resources.** Governing board for state agency, serving on committee for department of Family and Children's services.