



## R. Taylor Speer

Partner

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Taylor is an energy lawyer who focuses on advising and litigating for electric utility customers, independent power producers and special interest groups. He also maintains a state, federal, and administrative litigation practice — often when there is a public policy consideration.

### Energy

You can find Taylor where energy infrastructure is being built. He is regularly hired by independent power producers for guidance and support on project development and acquisition, locally and in deregulated markets. For these clients, he has performed market analysis, conducted state and federal regulatory compliance, resolved interconnection disputes and litigated pro-development issues before state regulators. In that regard, Taylor has supported regulatory approval of over 1 GW of solar, storage, and transmission resources. In addition, Taylor is passionate about developing distributed energy resources for commercial and industrial utility customers. For these clients, Taylor has developed state interconnection procedures, litigated net metering and PURPA claims before state and federal regulators, avoided unnecessary regulatory requirements through waivers, and served as regulatory counsel for national microgrid projects.

Taylor is also well versed in utility planning, appearing in planning proceedings on behalf of utility customers and special interest groups. Following an eight-day trial, he achieved rejection of a utility's first fully litigated resource planning proceeding on behalf of his client.

Taylor is a frequent contributor to the public dialogue on clean energy and was cited in filings with the U.S. Supreme Court related to voluntary cleanup of brownfields.

### Litigation

Employers rely on Taylor to protect their interests in litigation involving allegations of sexual harassment, retaliation and discrimination, as well as violations of fair housing, wage-and-hour, immigration and consumer protection laws. His successful representations include trying an employment case to jury verdict in federal court and arguing for an employer in a federal court of appeal. He also advises and counsels businesses on a broad range of multistate litigation including administrative law.

### Services

- Litigation
- Energy & Natural Resources
- Renewable Energy & Project Development

- Environmental
- Labor & Employment
- Manufacturing
- Immigration

## Before Fox Rothschild

Prior to joining Fox Rothschild, Taylor was a shareholder and managing partner of the Greenville office of a regional law firm. Before that, he was partner at a boutique firm in Florida. Taylor served as a law clerk at two different firms while earning his law degree.

## Bar Admissions

- South Carolina
- Florida

## Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of South Carolina
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida

## Education

- Florida Coastal School of Law (J.D., 2007)
- University of Colorado Leeds School of Business (B.S., 2003)

## Memberships

- Haynsworth-Perry American Inn of Court
- Green Ribbon Advisory Committee for City of Greenville
- E4 Carolinas
  - Task Force for South Carolina Clean Energy Industries (formerly South Carolina Clean Energy Business Alliance Advisory Committee)

## Board of Directors

- Conservation Voters of South Carolina

## Honors & Awards

- Named a "Top Lawyer" by *Talk-Greenville* (2024)
- Recognized in the *Chambers USA* Guide for Litigation: General Commercial in South Carolina (2022-2025)
- Graduate of NARUC rate school (2021)
- Recognized among the "Legal Elite" by *Greenville Business Magazine* for Business Litigation (2020) and Energy and Utilities (2022-2025); Top Choice Recipient (2021)
- Named to Leadership Greenville (2019)
- Cited as an authority on environmental law (CERCLA) in filings with the United States Supreme Court (2011)

# Representative Matters

## Energy Transition

- In a years-long litigated proceeding, developed state interconnection procedures to include usable features for non-export solar and storage facilities.

- Advised IPP developer on restarting deactivated power plant in PJM territory.
- Advised storage developer on data center-sited storage facilities in PJM territory.
- Served as primary energy counsel for deal team on acquisition of generator located in PJM territory.
- Represented trade association in a litigated proceeding to develop renewable energy procurement procedures of public utility.
- In a case of first impression, achieved waiver of state interconnection procedures for customer-sited solar facility.
- Supported team performing due diligence for bank that refinanced a national portfolio of distributed energy resources.
- Appeared for gas marketer in gas utility's first state rate case in over ten years.
- In a case of first impression, achieved order finding that interconnection facilities of a utility-scale solar and storage project in South Carolina were not subject to regulator's siting authority and review.
- Persuaded regulator to rescind prior order, based on change in the law, that would have otherwise increased costs and caused development delay of a utility-scale solar project in South Carolina.
- Successfully defeated power company's attempt to expand regulatory interpretation of South Carolina law relating to siting of solar power plants following significant briefing and trial.
- Appeared in first-ever litigated integrated resource plan proceeding of state-owned utility.
- Successfully resolved offtake and interconnection dispute for customer-sited, combined CHP and solar facility after filing PURPA enforcement and declaratory relief at FERC.
- Consulted on regulatory risk for national microgrid feasibility studies.
- Provided support in achieving regulatory approval of over 1 GW of new solar generation.
- Successfully resolved FERC jurisdictional interconnection dispute for developer of utility-scale solar facility.
- Achieved regulatory rejection of a power company's first-ever litigated integrated resource plan proceeding in the Carolinas following eight-day trial.
- Secured regulatory rejection of a power company's proposed tariff controlling terms of nonresidential distributed solar following six-day trial and approval of client's proposed tariff.
- Succeeded in obtaining regulatory approval of settlement with a power company on tariffs controlling terms of non-residential distributed solar for 10 years and providing for customer-owned renewable energy credits.
- Negotiated changes to a power company's utility-scale solar tariffs on behalf of public ratepayer.
- Negotiated changes to two power companies' interconnection procedures for non-residential distributed solar.
- Achieved county economic development commitments that solar developer used in bids for utility-scale projects.

## **Trials**

- Secured partial directed verdict for employer in retaliation claim after \$5 million jury demand in federal rocket docket jurisdiction.
- Achieved defense verdict in jury trial for national debt collector alleged to have violated consumer protection laws.
- Obtained partial directed verdict in arbitration for tenant in seven-figure damages cases arising from commercial properties in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.
- Secured defense and nominal verdicts for insured in auto negligence jury trials.

## **Appeals**

- Briefed and argued employment defense case in the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Reversed trial court's interlocutory order denying discovery in business fraud case.

## **Litigation**

- Secured seven-figure settlement for international pharmaceutical supplier in lien foreclosure suit.
- Obtained six-figure settlement from insurer of IT vendor that caused catastrophic loss of data after court permitted forensic inspection of hard drives.
- Negotiated settlement for nonprofit corporation against former director who stole client's USDA contracts.
- Settled shareholder derivative action and minority oppression lawsuit for less than client's own valuation.
- Achieved dismissal of sexual harassment and negligent supervision claims.

## **Immigration**

- Forced USCIS to approve immigrant visa by filing mandamus action against then-FBI Director Robert Mueller.

- Achieved special interest waiver from Department of State for South Carolina physician employed by Federally Qualified Health Center.
- Defended employer accused of violating e-Verify laws; agency took no action.
- Negotiated settlement for employee leasing company sued by DOL for allegedly violating immigrant labor laws.

## Publications

November 18, 2024

**Duke Energy Gives North, South Carolina Customers More Access to Renewable Energy**

June 4, 2024

**DOE, FERC Move to Connect Power-Hungry Customers to Renewable Energy**

May 1, 2020

**Energy Freedom Act: The Need to Know**

*Greenville Business Magazine*

March 12, 2020

**Utility-Scale Solar Survives in South Carolina**

*Solar Industry*

July 11, 2019

**Solar Soars In South Carolina With Energy Freedom Act**

*Solar Industry*

April 15, 2019

**Senate Set to Overhaul Clean Energy and Make Solar More Competitive in South Carolina**

*Greenville Journal*

October 31, 2016

**Are You Protecting Your Business with Non-Compete Agreements?**

*GSA Business Report*

July 25, 2016

**Five Lease Terms A Business Tenant Should Negotiate**

*GSA Business Report*