

NKECHI TAIFA, ESQ.

Preferred pronunciation:

(Neh-KEE-Chee Tah-EE-Fah)

Nkechi Taifa is an attorney, activist, academician and author. A passionate and visionary professional, she enjoys decades of experience as an accomplished justice system reform strategist and advocate. Taifa excels at advancing creative, cutting edge approaches that encourage out-of-the-box thinking and action. The wealth of her experiences has allowed her to pursue justice from different vantage points -- as a litigator, lobbyist, scholar, advocate, policy analyst, community organizer, convener and grant-maker.

Nkechi is President and CEO of The Taifa Group LLC. She convenes the Justice Roundtable coalition, and serves as Senior Fellow for the Center for Justice at Columbia University. Over her career Taifa has worked for the Open Society Foundations, ACLU, Women's Legal Defense Fund, Howard University School of Law, National Prison Project and Washington Office on Africa. She has taught popular seminars on Law, Race and Justice and has litigated high-profile civil and criminal cases as a private practitioner in DC and federal court.

Taifa served as Commissioner and Chair of the District of Columbia Commission on Human Rights and currently serves as a City Council appointee on the governing board of the Corrections Information Council. She is a founding member of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America, and an inaugural commissioner on the National African American Reparations Commission. She has testified before the U.S. Congress, the United States Sentencing Commission, the Council of the District of Columbia, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

Nkechi Taifa's primary area of focus is justice, including sentencing, policing, prisons, voting, reentry, clemency, racial justice, political prisoners and reparations. She is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, and received her B.A. from Howard University and J.D. from George Washington Law School. She is the author of a best-seller memoir *Black Power, Black Lawyer: My Audacious Quest for Justice*, and several books for young people: *Shining Legacy*, *The Adventures of Kojo and Ama*, and

Three Tales of Wisdom. Authentic and unapologetic, Nkechi Taifa is a captivating motivational speaker who has mesmerized diverse audiences across the country with her high energy and creative style.

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