

Kami Chavis

Kami Chavis, a former assistant United States attorney for the District of Columbia, is vice provost at Wake Forest University and professor of law and director of the Criminal Justice Program at Wake Forest University School of Law. At Wake Forest, her portfolio includes the Office of Online Education, the Office of Civic and Community Engagement, the Center for the Advancement of Teaching, the Professional Development Center and Title IX. She is also the co-chair of the Slavery, Race and Memory Project Steering Committee, which examines and implements academic programming related to the university's historical ties to the institution of slavery.

Chavis is an expert on implementing organizational change in local law enforcement agencies, regarding police-use of force, mitigating risks associated with allegations of racial profiling and the implementation of body-worn cameras and other technological tools that assist law enforcement. She has experience in strategic planning with community organizations and drafting and reviewing internal police policies for conformity with best practices with policing and prosecution.

She graduated with a bachelor's degree in public policy analysis, with highest honors, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After receiving her J.D. from Harvard Law School, she worked as an associate at private law firms in Washington, D.C., where she participated in various aspects of civil litigation, white-collar criminal defense and internal investigations. In 2003, she became an assistant United States attorney for the District of Columbia, involving her in a wide range of criminal prosecutions and in arguing and briefing appeals before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Chavis frequently makes presentations on law enforcement issues and is a leader in the field of police accountability. Her most recent publication is a chapter in the *Cambridge Handbook on Policing* about law enforcement and technology. Her articles have appeared in the *University of Illinois Law Review*, the *American Criminal Law Review*, the *Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law*, *The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, the *University of Alabama Law Review*, the *Catholic University Law Review* and other legal journals. Her research focuses on using cooperative federalism principles and stakeholder participation to implement sustainable reforms in the criminal justice system. She writes in the areas of police and prosecutorial accountability, federal hate crimes legislation and enforcement, law enforcement and technology, pattern or practice investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice, racial profiling, and strategies to reduce gun violence. She has testified before local and federal legislators regarding the use and implementation of police body-worn cameras.

She is a frequent contributor to national and international media outlets and has appeared on CNN, MSNBC, CTV and NPR. She has written opinion pieces for *The New York Times*, *The Nation* and *USA Today*, and she has been quoted in *The Atlantic*, *The Wall Street Journal*, BBC News, *U.S. News and World Report*, CBS News, *International Business Times*, *Deutsche Welle* and other outlets regarding police accountability and the structural reform of law enforcement agencies.

In 2015, she was appointed as a senior academic fellow at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. She was elected to the American Law Institute in 2012. Chavis is a native of Raleigh, North Carolina and currently lives in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.