

Helena Duncan Bio

Helena Thomas Duncan was born and raised in Opelika, AL, and is the youngest of five children. She received her Bachelor of Science in Finance from Auburn University at Montgomery.

Duncan began her professional career as a teller at SouthTrust Bank. Throughout her career in the financial sector, she provided support to individuals and main street businesses to help them succeed. In 1994, Duncan became Executive Vice President of Colonial BancGroup, Inc., where she oversaw Human Resources for more than 5,000 employees across five states and was responsible for executive-level recruitment. Her additional responsibilities included managing corporate security, developing and managing private banking, and contributing to the team that prepared the strategic plan and coordinated mergers and acquisitions.

In 2005, Duncan opened American Legacy Mortgage in Montgomery. As Owner and Broker, she helped clients identify the best mortgage products to meet their needs while building and maintaining strong relationships with real estate agents. Two years later, she joined First Tuskegee Bank in Montgomery as Executive Vice President. In that role, she was responsible for branch growth in both loans and deposits, as well as corporate governance relationships with federal, state, and local supervisory authorities. She also oversaw IT, operations, bank security, the compliance department, Human Resources, and supervised all bank legal matters.

Prior to joining the Business Council of Alabama (BCA), Duncan served as Regional President of Liberty Bank & Trust, where she was responsible for the overall growth, development, and safety of all Alabama branches. She joined BCA as Director of Strategic Operations and Growth, later moving into the role of Senior Vice President of Operations and Investor Relations. In that capacity, her primary focus was membership growth, including member satisfaction and enhancing the BCA membership experience. She also oversaw Human Resources, Finance, Operations, and the coordination of communications, marketing, and events.

Duncan stepped into the role of BCA President and CEO in December 2022 and has continued to strengthen the organization's advocacy efforts as the voice of Alabama's business community on both the state and federal level.

Duncan was recognized as a Yellowhammer 2022 Woman of Impact and has been consecutively honored on Yellowhammer's Power & Influence 50 list for her contributions to Alabama's business community. Beyond her work at BCA, Duncan remains active in Montgomery community affairs, having served on several boards, including Dixie Electric Cooperative, the Montgomery Committee of 100, the YMCA Board of Directors, and Synovus Bank. She is also the former Chairman of the Board at Saint James School.

Helena and her husband, Clarence, reside in Montgomery. They are the proud parents of two sons, CJ, who is married to Patricia, and Collin. They just recently welcomed their first granddaughter in February of this year.