

## RISING STAR

# New partner relishes role with co-ops

Nexsen Pruet attorney enjoys his career but always dreamed of being race-car driver

By JUSTIN CHAPURA  
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Attorney J. David Black was recently promoted to partner at law firm Nexsen Pruet. He spoke with the Columbia Business Journal about his life and career.

**FAMILY:** Married with two children, a 4-year-old and a 20-month-old.

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor's degree in political science, USC Aiken, 1995; Juris Doctorate, USC School of Law, 2000

**CAREER:** Clerked in the state circuit court for the Hon. Kenneth G. Goode from 2000 to 2001 before joining Nexsen Pruet.

**HOMETOWN:** "My father was a nuclear engineer, so I had kind of a nomadic upbringing. I graduated high school in Aiken."

**HOBBIES:** Cycling, running and skiing. In Idaho, Black was a state BMX champion as a teen.

**FIRST JOB:** "In high school, I worked for a landscape maintenance group in the summers. I was doing 12-hour days in the South Carolina heat, and that made me really focus on my school work and how to get a good job."

**CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** "One of my main clients is the Electric



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Attorney J. David Black was recently promoted to partner at Nexsen Pruet, one of the largest law firms in the southeastern United States.

Cooperative of South Carolina. My highlight is successfully assisting the electric cooperative with legislation and litigation efforts to clarify electric service rights. It was territorial assignment-type work, figuring out the boundaries where co-ops can use their services. It really was work where I felt I was making a difference."

**ASPIRATIONS:** "My big aspiration, having two children and a wife at home, is about growing as an attorney here at Nexsen Pruet while being at home with my family."

**BEST CAREER DECISION:** "To leave my former career as a retail buyer and manager and taking up law."

**GREATEST CHALLENGE:** "Remembering that my wife is always right."

**FIRST CHOICE FOR A NEW CAREER:** "My dream job is being a Formula 1 driver."

**MOST VALUABLE LESSON:** "What my father drilled into my head at an early age: Treat everyone like you would like to be treated."

**PET PEEVE:** "People who wear their Bluetooth headsets in movie theaters. It's humorous, but I just don't understand. My theory is it's like the Star Trek generation kind of thing."

**FAVORITE RESTAURANT:** "Wasabi. It's a new sushi restaurant in the northeast. Best sushi I've had in the city."