

PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

The Public Policy and Government Affairs Practice Group was recently expanded to build upon our diverse and unique knowledge of government and how it works – and how it can work for you. Headed by former Gov. Jim Holshouser and former N.C. Assistant Commerce Secretary Ernie Pearson, the practice offers a comprehensive range of capabilities that focus on both the tactics and strategies of maximizing any matter which is affected by state or federal government discretion.

The expansion will allow the firm to represent the interests of clients in both Carolinas before local, state and federal government leaders. Earlier this year, Nexsen Pruet expanded a similar group in South Carolina.

Our services include:

- Positioning local, state and federal policy issues for successful advocacy
- Ensuring compliance with campaign finance, ethics and lobbying laws
- Fostering governmental champions
- Advising on public relations matters
- Managing hearings and investigations
- Managing internal corporate communications
- Writing and preparing witnesses to deliver testimony
- Drafting articles, press releases and speeches
- Monitoring legislation
- Developing political outreach
- Representing clients before regulatory agencies
- Advising on corporate governance and best practices
- Building grassroots support
- Customized legislation monitoring
- Organizing and managing coalitions
- Managing political and public relations crises



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Our team includes:

Jim Holshouser served as Governor of North Carolina from 1973 to 1977, after four terms in the General Assembly, where he was Vice Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and House Rules Committee. Since leaving public office Holshouser has served in a variety of leadership roles, including special advisor to the Research Triangle Regional Partnership, Board Member or Trustee of the University of North Carolina, Davidson College, Elon University School of Law and St. Andrews Presbyterian College.

Ernie Pearson has served in three policy level positions in State government as Director of Special Projects in the North Carolina Department of Transportation; Chairman of the NC Industrial Commission; and Assistant Secretary for Economic Development in the NC Department of Commerce. Pearson has worked extensively through the years on matters before the NC General Assembly, and which involved dealings with the executive branch of state government.

Bob Coble co-chairs the firm's Public Policy and Governmental Affairs Practice Team. He was the former Mayor of the City of Columbia from 1990 until June of this year. He has extensive contacts at the federal level and within South Carolina state government.

With a team that has "in-the-trenches" experience in government – as well as a thorough understanding of the regulatory and legislative issues businesses face – the Public Policy and Government Affairs Practice Group can deliver creative and successful solutions for the clients we serve. All of the matters are handled with the greatest of discretion. If you are looking to maximize policy opportunities, or avoid their potentially adverse consequences, we have the people, experience, and relationships to help.