

## Christopher Kouri

### MEMBER, CHARLOTTE OFFICE MANAGING PARTNER

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### Practices

Economic Development

Corporate Law

Public Policy & Governmental Affairs

Land Use and Zoning

Mergers & Acquisitions

### Industries

Hospitality & Tourism

Manufacturing

Retail

Agribusiness

Entertainment

Public Sector and Government

Transportation

Life Sciences

Pharmaceuticals

### Education

→ University of North Carolina, J.D.,  
2000

I'm a lawyer committed to helping my clients tackle tough challenges and develop proactive strategies that generate results.

At Nexsen Pruet, my practice is focused on economic development, government affairs and general corporate law. As counsel to clients with economic development projects, I am experienced in incentive negotiations and have advised a number of domestic and international companies in public and private financing and state and local economic incentive packages. I've also helped economic development clients navigate regulatory and permitting requirements, select optimal sites and acquire real estate. Client projects have ranged from corporate office and headquarter development to manufacturing and back office facilities.

I respect the work of state and local officials and find collaborative ways to help clients deliver the added value of their services in the public sector. In this way, I advise companies in their myriad government affairs needs, which has resulted in helping clients win significant public contracts, manage and resolve state and local tax issues, and structure partnerships for improvements in public infrastructure. As corporate counsel, I help clients on a wide range of general corporate matters – from mergers and acquisitions and complex contract agreements to venture capital, corporate governance, and entity formations.

- Duke University, MPP, 2000
- Yale University, B.A., 1992

## Admissions

- North Carolina

When it comes to industry experience, I have experience in the motorsports sector having served six years as the General Counsel of the Charlotte Motor Speedway. I'm also well versed in the manufacturing, construction, food-sourcing, food service, advertising, travel and tourism, telecommunications, web-based start-ups, grocery store, education, law enforcement and nonprofit industries.

Outside of my practice at the firm, I am a passionate football fan. My appreciation for the game was honed by 16 years on the grid iron. I was lucky to play for some legends: Coach Jim Oddo (Charlotte Catholic High School), Coach Carm Cozza (Yale University, College Football Hall of Fame class of 2002) and Coach Don Shula (in the 1992 Miami Dolphins preseason camps). My college teammates and I enjoyed winning seasons each of our four years, including a conference championship. After the Dolphins released me, I eventually found my way to Aix-en-Provence in the south of France where I played for the undefeated Argonautes and was named MVP of the French Super Bowl. I knew those French lessons would come in handy one day.

## Recognitions

- Best Lawyers in America for Corporate Law, Since 2014
- Recognized in Business North Carolina's Legal Elite of 2021

## Community & Professional

- Board Member and Chair of Education Committee, NC Motorsports Association and Foundation 2013-present
- Board Member, North Carolina Economic Development Association, 2019-present
- Board Member Yale Football Association 2014 - present
- General Counsel and Member of Executive Committee, Charlotte Regional Partnership, 2015-2019
- Former Board Member, North Carolina Travel and Tourism Coalition
- Former member, Governor's Motorsports Advisory Council
- Former member, Governor's Healthy Schools Cabinet
- Former member, UNC Charlotte Motorsports Program Advisory Council
- Former member, Charlotte Chamber of Commerce
- Former member, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation State Advisory Panel

- Former member, Motorsports Industry Council
- Former Board of Directors, Southern Webbing Mills Inc.
- Former member, Public School Forum of North Carolina
- Former member, Charlotte Organizing Project (CHOP)
- Former member, Charlotte Catholic High School Alumni

Chris moderated an NCEDA-hosted webinar with Governor Roy Cooper and his chief policy adviser Ken Eudy on April 29, 2020. The Governor covered the intertwined issues of public health and the impaired economy the COVID-19 crisis presents and laid out his vision and thoughts for a way forward in the crucial months ahead. Listen and view here: [NCEDA Webinar with Governor Roy Cooper](#).

Presenter, Nexsen Pruet Economic Development Seminar: NC vs. SC, *NC Property Tax Incentives; Port Cargo Credits/ Data Centers*, November 6, 2015

## News

02.05.2021 | Video

Black History Month Spotlight: Harvey Gantt

07.16.2019 | News from Nexsen Pruet

Chris Kouri elected to the North Carolina Economic Development Association Board of Directors

## Insights

02.15.2021

VIDEO: Strategic Economic Development Opportunities for Businesses

05.11.2020

COVID-19 Silver Linings for Economic Development