

Sam P. Johnson

ADVISOR

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Practices

Legislative & Regulatory

Industries

Public Sector and Government

Education

University of South Carolina School of Law, J.D., 2018

University of South Carolina, B.A. - English and Political Science, 2010

Sam Johnson represents clients before governmental agencies and in matters stemming from government action. He has developed a reputation for his skill in crisis management and navigating political issues on both sides of the aisle.

Prior to joining Nexsen Pruet, Sam helped lead the office of the Mayor under Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin. In working closely with Columbia, South Carolina's 36th and current mayor as well as the 76th President of the US Conference of Mayors, Sam was instrumental in coordinating the Mayor's agenda. During Sam's tenure, the City of Columbia saw over \$1 billion in economic investment.

Sam was actively involved in leading most of the Mayor's visible and notable projects, including the Bull Street redevelopment project, a revitalization effort in one of Columbia's most anticipated emerging neighborhoods, and the Famously Hot New Year Celebration, South Carolina's largest New Year's Eve party that regularly draws tens of thousands of partygoers to Columbia's Main Street.

While Sam has affixed himself as a staple of the South Carolina political landscape, he has developed extensive relationships with elected officials and business leaders across the country. He routinely consults with leaders across the country on the best strategies to move their communities forward and to aide corporations in reaching workable public, private, partnerships.

Along with the work he does as a member of Nexsen Pruet's **Public Policy & Governmental Affairs** team, Sam is a Project Specialist for Nexsen Pruet's communications subsidiary, **NP Strategy**.

His many experiences, vast network and firsthand knowledge of state and local government position Sam as an invaluable asset to Nexsen Pruet, NP Strategy and their clients.

Experience

The Associated Press discussed Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin's prominent role in the 2020 Democratic Presidential Primary in a story written by Meg Kinnard. Meg highlighted Sam's extensive career with Mayor Benjamin. [Read the article here.](#)

Following the first debate of the 2020 Democratic Presidential Primary candidates, Politico published an article detailing the debate and issues discussed. Politico spoke to Sam to provide commentary on how the debate will impact the outcome of the early South Carolina primary. [Read the article here.](#)

USA Today spoke to Sam for an article discussing Vice President Biden's pathway to success for the South Carolina's presidential primary. [Read the article here.](#)

The Post and Courier spoke to Sam for his insight and expertise on the South Carolina capital in their piece *Why Millennials Are Finally Choosing Columbia*. [Read the article here.](#)

Recognitions

- Listed, *Columbia Business Monthly*, Best & Brightest - 35 & Under, 2018
- Listed, *South Carolina Black Pages*, Top 40 Under 40, 2014
- Listed, *The State*, Top 20 Under 40, 2013
- Participant, *The Progressive Policy Institute and Columbia University's Richard Paul Richman Center for Business, Law, and Public Policy's Agenda 2016: Reviving U.S. Economic Growth Symposium*, 2015
- Participant, *Congressional Black Caucus Institute's Boot Camp*, 2011

Community & Professional

Sam is currently a member of:

- Harvest Hope Food Bank, Board of Directors
- Midlands Technical College's Human Resources, Board of Directors
- Capital City Club, Board of Governors - Executive Committee
- The Nickelodeon Theatre, Board of Directors
- South Carolina PASOs, Board of Directors
- South Carolina Afterschool Alliance, Board of Directors - Chairman

- My Carolina (USC) Alumni Association, Board of Governors
- Talented Tenth, Board of Directors
- South Carolina Philharmonic, Advisory Board
- South Carolina State Museum Board

Sam has served as:

- Senior Resources, Board of Directors
- Columbia Opportunity Resource (COR), Board of Directors
- Tapp's Arts Center, Board of Directors
- Richland County Democratic Party, Third Vice Chair
- *SC Lawyer*, "Federal Income Tax Consequences of State Economic Development Incentives After Passage of Tax Cuts and Jobs Act," March 2018
- *The State*, "We have to stop killing me," December 2014
- Sam spoke at the SC Chamber of Commerce's 2019 Business Week program on the topic of personal branding and marketing.

News

01.08.2020 | News from Nexsen Pruet

Leighton Lord and Sam Johnson recognized among "50 Most Influential People In Columbia" by Columbia Business Monthly

12.12.2019 | Media Mention

Sam Johnson Featured in My Carolina Alumnus Spotlight

Insights

06.29.2020

VIDEO: Sam Johnson Discusses COVID-19 Issues in SC That Impact How Our Clients Do Business

01.23.2020

South Carolina Politics: Four Things to Watch in 2020