

Government Relations

South Carolina



David Wilkins was the long-time speaker of the S.C. House of Representatives, until appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as ambassador to Canada. He is an invaluable resource with his relationships and strategic counsel. He led the transition team for former S.C. Governor Nikki Haley and remains involved in S.C. politics.



Dwight Drake



Ed Poliakoff

Dwight Drake and **Ed Poliakoff** together have more than 40 years of experience lobbying for clients before the S.C. General Assembly. Ed represents clients at the State House and advises on compliance with the S.C. Ethics Act.

Dwight served as executive assistant for legislative and political affairs for former Governor Richard W. Riley and as legal counsel to former Governor John C. West. He has litigated sensitive, high-profile court cases and is recognized as one of the state's leading political and legislative strategists.



Steve Davidson served as an attorney for the S.C. House of Representatives for 11 years, most recently as chief counsel for the House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee. In this capacity, Steve provided counsel to House members on issues related to the regulation of public utilities, insurance regulation, employment and labor laws, workers' compensation, energy, economic development, banking, and other business-related issues.



James Burns served as former S.C. Governor Nikki Haley's chief of staff during the start of her second term and coordinated with legislators and state agencies in carrying out the governor's agenda. In addition, James has served as chair of the S.C. State Ethics Commission and as former counsel to the S.C. Ethics Reform Commission. Most recently, he was named chair of accelerateSC, Governor Henry McMaster's initiative to manage the state's response to COVID-19.



Harry Cato is a government relations consultant who served in the S.C. House of Representatives for 20 years representing the northern portion of Greenville County and is recognized as one of the leading professional lobbyists in South Carolina. He served as chairman of the House Labor, Commerce, and Industry Committee for 14 years and as the speaker pro tempore of the S.C. House of Representatives.

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Kathy Shannon is recognized at the S.C. State House as a leading lobbying professional. Kathy is tenacious and thorough in preparation. She enjoys effective working relationships with members of the House and Senate Majority leadership, among others.



Ashley Martin Aldebol is a special advisor to Ambassador David H. Wilkins. Her team focuses primarily on representing businesses on both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border and offering assistance on a range of strategic bilateral issues.