

Government Relations

South Carolina



Dwight Drake 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.



Ed Poliakoff represents clients at the State House and advises on compliance with the S.C. Ethics Act. Poliakoff has more than 30 years' experience representing clients before the South Carolina General Assembly and state agencies as a registered lobbyist. His successful practice in government relations has been recognized by the Best Lawyers in America for 10 consecutive years.



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.



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.



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.

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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.