

Richard W. Riley

Partner

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Richard W. Riley is a senior partner of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP and EducationCounsel LLC. A former U.S. Secretary of Education (1993-2001) and a former Governor of South Carolina (1979-87), Dick Riley, with full support of the Firm, remains an ambassador for improving education in the state, nation, and abroad.

Experience

Following is a selected sampling of matters and is provided for informational purposes only. Past success does not indicate the likelihood of success in any future matter.

Experience

- Counsels clients on business, governance, financial matters, government processes and education law, policy, strategy and advocacy
- Works with partners to develop strategy in complex business, legal and education matters

Previous Professional Experience

- As U.S. Secretary of Education, helped launch initiatives to raise academic standards; improve instruction for the poor and disadvantaged; increase parental involvement in education; expand grants and loans to help more students attend college; and prepare young people in America for the world of work
- As Governor of South Carolina, initiated the Education Improvement Act, the Employment Revitalization Act, the S.C. Research Authority, regional nuclear waste compacts, merit selection of public service commissioners, greater

Education

University of South Carolina School of Law,
JD (1959)

Furman University, BA, Political Science,
cum laude (1954)

Admissions

South Carolina

Practice Areas

[Corporate Governance](#)

[Economic Development](#)

[Education](#)

[EducationCounsel LLC](#)

[Federal Government Strategies](#)

[Government Relations](#)

[Higher Education](#)

[State & Local Government Relations](#)

Industries

[Education](#)

openness in government, and a constitutional amendment creating a state reserve fund

- As S.C. State Legislator, advocated for Home Rule for local governments, judicial reform, legislative transparency, revision of the State Constitution, and modernization of state government

Recognitions

The bar rules of some states require that the standards for an attorney's inclusion in certain public accolades or recognitions be provided. When such accolades or recognitions are listed, a hyperlink is provided that leads to a description of the respective selection methodology.

- Inducted into South Carolina Hall of Fame
- Named by TIME Magazine among *Top Ten Best Cabinet Members* in USA history
- Recipient of national and local awards from education and public service organizations
- Recipient of honorary degrees from higher education institutions in the United States and abroad
- College of Education at Winthrop University and College of Education and Leadership, Walden University, bear his name

Professional Activities

- South Carolina Bar
- American Bar Association
- Distinguished Professor of Education at the University of South Carolina
- Advisory Board Chair of Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics and Public Leadership at Furman University
- ABA Commissions on Rule of Law and Civics in our Nation's Schools

Articles & Speeches

Insights

[A degree is still a great investment and the value of college just goes up from there](#), *The State* - Author (June 7, 2018)

Events/Speaking Engagements

[City of Greenville Honors Nelson Mullins' Dick Riley \(Monday, November 12, 2018\)](#)

[Remarks by Richard W. Riley at the first meeting of the S.C. Education Reform Task Force - Speaker \(February 23, 2015\)](#)

[Richard Riley Speech at James F. Byrnes Scholarship Luncheon - Speaker \(June 14, 2014\)](#)