



Christopher Kouri

Chris brings people together. Forging coalitions, building bridges and finding common ground to navigate complex situations. This theme has run throughout his life and his legal career. Chris simultaneously received his J.D. at the UNC School of Law and his Master of Public Policy from Duke University; through earning both, he explored and analyzed the underlying public policies in our legal system. As General Counsel at Charlotte Motor Speedway for six years, he represented the Speedway on the NC Travel and Tourism Coalition, serving on the board of directors, the executive committee and on the sub-committee of North Carolina-based professional sports. He and his coalition partners negotiated and improved state policy relating to tax, transportation and law enforcement. Today, Chris brings much of that same approach to his corporate legal practice and its focus on public-private partnerships for economic development and government affairs. He values the work of public officials and helps his clients achieve their goals in a way that also enhances public policy aims.

Elected Captain of his Yale freshman and varsity football teams, Chris was seen by teammates as a unifier. Later, with a strong sense of public service, Chris was drawn to build political and policy bridges when he ran for Congress in 2002 (NC's 8th US House District). Chris won a competitive four-way primary garnering support across a 10-county district that sewed together banking-heavy Charlotte, military-heavy Fayetteville and eight rural, economically challenged counties in between. A native North Carolinian, that campaign furthered Chris's knowledge of his home state and expanded his already rich network of friends, allies and business associates. Chris now stays active on professional and civic boards, serving as: General Counsel and Executive Committee Member to the Charlotte Regional Partnership; Board member to the Yale Football Association; and Board member (and Education Committee Chair) for the North Carolina Motorsports Foundation.

Chris is passionate about finding solutions for his clients. Sometimes he solves problems in a hands-on way: such as jumping rooftops to patch damaged homes after Hurricane Katrina or loading trucks to provide relief for Haitian earthquake victims. But subtler problem-solving skills inform his transactional legal practice every day. He has represented clients on some of the largest economic development office projects in the Charlotte Region, negotiated incentives all over the United States and brought a pragmatic approach to his clients' corporate issues.



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