



## Ernest Pearson, Senior Managing Partner

Ernie Pearson is an attorney with Nexsen Pruet and founded Sanford Holshouser Economic Consulting Group. He has been involved in economic development matters at the state, regional and local levels since 1989. Prior to working directly with economic development matters, he had a range of experience in legal fields which further supports his work in economic development to include dealing with corporate, real estate, finance, workers compensation, and contract matters. From 1989 to 1993, Ernie served as Assistant Secretary of Economic Development for the North Carolina Department of Commerce. In this role he had management oversight of programs dealing with business and industry recruitment, international trade development, finance programs supporting new and expanded facilities, travel and tourism promotions, and small business development. Also he had the lead role in promoting and creating the Global TransPark and in dealing with environmentally sensitive projects.



Accomplishments attained during his tenure with the state included leading the country in three out of four years in recruiting large facilities; leading in two out of four years in recruiting international companies; leading two out of four years in recruiting research and development facilities; and being recognized four out of four years as the top state recruitment program in the country. Upon leaving state service in 1993 Ernie joined the law firm of Sanford Holshouser LLP. His practice has focused since then on legal matters dealing with economic development organizations and in assisting companies in site selection projects.

In 2008, the Sanford Holshouser Law Firm, with whom Ernie was a managing partner, was named by *Southern Business* Magazine as one of the top law firms in the South that understand economic development.

### *Educational Background:*

North Carolina State University, BA in Political Science  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Juris Doctorate

### *Professional Registrations and Memberships:*

Licensed Attorney in State of North Carolina  
North Carolina Economic Developers Association, Former Board Member, Member  
South Carolina Economic Developers Association, Member  
North Carolina Bar Association, Member  
Reserve Officers Association, Member  
North Carolina International Visitors Center, Member  
N.C. Advanced Learning Technologies Association, General Counsel and Member

---

#### Sanford Holshouser Economic Development Consulting, LLC

US Senator Terry Sanford (1917-1998)  
NC Governor James E. Holshouser

201 Shannon Oaks Circle, Suite 100, Cary, NC 27511  
Mail to: P.O. Box 5646, Cary, NC 27512-5646

919-653-7805 • Fax 919-653-0435  
[www.sanfordholshouser.com](http://www.sanfordholshouser.com)