

## Christopher Glenn Sawyer

### Senior Counsel

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Christopher Glenn Sawyer is a retired partner and senior counsel at Alston & Bird, where he practiced law for 35 years. During that time, he developed and pursued a national practice focused on corporate, real estate, and environmental areas of law, ultimately emphasizing institutional development, deal structures, strategic matters, and management of legal issues. Although Chris no longer engages in an active law practice, he does continue to advise various entities on strategic and development issues.

He has dedicated his career to the development of sustainable, environmental, and conservation conscious real estate programs and has worked with many entities and communities. He has been widely recognized for his work throughout his career. He has accepted the Urban Land Institute's Global Award for Excellence and the Harry West Golden Glasses Award from the Atlanta Regional Council, a special commendation from the Georgia House of Representatives for his contributions to Georgia, the Ferguson Award as the Trust for Public Land's most outstanding national volunteer, the Justice Robert Benham Award from the State Bar of Georgia for his public service, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Chattahoochee Nature Center.

Chris is passionate about assisting young people and developing successful socially responsible entities and has given numerous speeches across the country. He has recently taught at Yale University, University of Georgia, and Wake Forest University on social entrepreneurship, institutional development, and leadership.

#### ***Representative Experience***

- Led our firm's national representation of one of America's largest privately held industrial development companies for 20 years, including formerly serving on its board of directors.
- Served as an advisor to, and former board member of, one of the world's largest land planning consultancies.
- Served as senior adviser to one of the largest manufacturing companies in the Southwest.
- Helped structure numerous real estate investments for clients across the U.S.
- Participated in or helped to manage more than \$4.5 billion of real estate and corporate transactions, more than \$3 billion of conservation projects in almost every state, and more than \$20 billion of conservation financing programs.

#### ***Professional & Community Engagement***

- Dean's Advisory Council of the Yale Divinity School, chair
- The Trust for Public Land, national emeritus chair and board member
- The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Institute for the Environment, lifetime chair emeritus
- Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, leadership council
- National Advisory Council of the Land Trust Alliance

- Trust for Public Land’s Georgia Advisory Board, founding chair and lifetime member
- Rocky Mountain Institute, former board member
- NHP Foundation, former board member
- IDI, former board member
- EDAW, former board member
- Urban Land Institute, former board member
- Land Trust Alliance, former board member
- National Real Estate Council of The Nature Conservancy, founder and former chairman
- West Hill Foundation for Nature, president 1999–2009
- Chattahoochee River Greenway Campaign, co-founder and former chairman
- Atlanta Bar Association, former president

#### ***Education***

- Duke University (J.D., 1978)
- Yale University (M.Div., 1975)
- The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (B.A., 1972)

#### ***Admitted to Practice***

- Georgia
- North Carolina

#### ***Related Services***

Real Estate & REITs | Commercial Real Estate Development | Corporate & Finance