



James Y. (Jim) Kerr II

Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Chief Compliance Officer | Southern Company
Chief of Staff to the Chairman, President and CEO

Jim Kerr is executive vice president, chief legal officer and chief compliance officer for Atlanta-based Southern Company, one of America's largest energy providers. As the senior legal officer of the company, he leads the Office of the General Counsel, which includes the company's legal, corporate governance, audit and compliance functions.

He also co-chairs Southern Company's internal business assurance council and serves in other risk management roles.

In his position as chief of staff, Kerr helps Southern Company chairman, president and CEO Tom Fanning with the fulfillment of his strategic priorities with the board of directors, the management council and officers across the system.

During his tenure at Southern Company, Kerr has helped direct the successful execution and regulatory approval of a number of M&A transactions including the merger with AGL Resources, acquisition of PowerSecure, and divestitures of Gulf Power and other assets. Kerr coordinates the company's approach to ESG issues, ensuring the integration of current and emerging ESG topics into the strategic direction of the company and leading engagement efforts with institutional investors and other stakeholders on ESG and related matters.

Before joining Southern Company in 2014, Kerr was a partner at McGuireWoods LLP and senior advisor at McGuireWoods Consulting LLC. While there, he demonstrated his deep knowledge of federal and state energy policy and regulations as he represented utilities in base rate, fuel case and facility certification proceedings.

Kerr was a member of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, which regulates the rates and services of all public utilities in the state, for eight years. He served as president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners from 2007 to 2008 and president of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners from 2002 to 2003. Kerr's years of experience in the energy regulatory arena specifically include representing natural gas, vertically integrated electric and transmission-only utilities in obtaining state and federal approvals of mergers, acquisitions and divestitures; representing electric utilities in base rate, fuel clause, complaint investigation and facility certification proceedings before state utility commissions; developing and implementing state legislation involving utility regulation, transmission and generation siting and development, installation and cost recovery of environmental controls and renewable portfolio standards and goals; and direct involvement in adopting and implementing federal legislation and policy.

Kerr's involvement in the community includes serving on the board of directors for the Georgia Aquarium, civic group Buckhead Coalition and mental health treatment organization Skyland Trail. He also actively supports the literacy organization Page Turners Make Great Learners as well as other community legal organizations such as the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta. He is also vice chair of the Institute for the Environment board of visitors for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He earned a bachelor's degree, cum laude, from Washington and Lee University and a juris doctorate degree, with honors, from the University of North Carolina School of Law. Kerr and his wife, Frances, have two children.