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The Watts Consulting Group announces the appointment of Steve Pruitt as Senior Partner and Ernest Nicholson as Partner.

"Steve and Ernest bring years of experience and knowledge to our company and will be a tremendous asset to our consulting firm and to all of our clients. It is an honor for me to welcome the both of them to the team," said J.C. Watts Jr., Chairman of the J.C. Watts Companies.

In a distinguished Washington career spanning over three decades, Steve Pruitt has earned a reputation as a respected and knowledgeable congressional legislative and public policy expert and strategist. He has served under congressional Democrats in numerous key positions, including as Staff Director of the Committee on the Budget of the United States House of Representatives and as a senior legislative and political advisor to Congressman William H. Gray, III (D-PA). Steve holds the honor of being the first African American to ever direct the staff of a major congressional committee.

"I look forward to providing a more aggressive bipartisan character to the representational activities on behalf of the clients of Watts Consulting Group as we engage lawmakers and other policymakers on a wide range of issues. I am honored to be able to add my 30-plus years of legislative and federal government advocacy experience to what is already one of the strongest teams of advocacy professionals in Washington."

As Senior Partner, Steve will focus on providing WCG clients with government relations strategies and manage the firms Democratic political activities.

Ernest Nicholson was a Presidential Appointee during the Clinton administration with long-standing relationships with House and Senate leaders. With years of experience, Ernest also has bona fide political credentials at the highest levels of government that will be an asset to both business and strategic consulting clients. During his tenure with Halliburton KBR over the past five years, Ernest was responsible for building a multi-million dollar business portfolio that included small and minority business development, GSA, DoD, HHS and DHS. He is a 16-year veteran officer of the US Army Reserve and graduated from the Business Statesmanship program at Yale University, School of Management.

As a Partner, Ernest Nicholson will work with the Watts Consulting Group to provide support in their client servicing endeavors, particularly in the field of business development. His portfolio includes work in the area of homeland security, contingency and disaster planning, defense, federal and municipal government.

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