

○ [Contact](#)

Biographies

SEC Biography: Chair Mary Jo White



Mary Jo White was sworn in as the 31st Chair of the SEC on April 10, 2013. She was nominated to be SEC Chair by President Barack Obama on Feb. 7, 2013, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on April 8, 2013.

Chair White arrived at the SEC with decades of experience as a federal prosecutor and securities lawyer. As the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York from 1993 to 2002, she specialized in prosecuting complex securities and financial institution frauds and international terrorism cases. Under her leadership, the office earned convictions against the terrorists responsible for the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center and the bombings of American embassies in Africa. She is the only woman to hold the top position in the 200-year-plus history of that office.



Prior to becoming the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Chair White served as the First Assistant U.S. Attorney and later Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York from 1990 to 1993. She previously served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York from 1978 to 1981 and became Chief Appellate Attorney of the Criminal Division.

After leaving her U.S. Attorney post, Chair White became chair of the litigation department at Debevoise & Plimpton in New York, where she led a team of more than 200 lawyers. Chair White previously was a litigation partner at the firm from 1983 to 1990 and worked as an associate from 1976 to 1978.

Chair White earned her undergraduate degree, Phi Beta Kappa, from William & Mary in 1970, and her master's degree in psychology from The New School for Social Research in 1971. She earned her law degree in 1974 at Columbia Law School, where she was an officer of the Law Review. She served as a law clerk to the Honorable Marvin E. Frankel of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Chair White has won numerous awards in recognition of her outstanding work both as a prosecutor and a securities lawyer. The 2012 Chambers USA Women in Law Awards named her Regulatory Lawyer of the Year. Among other honors she has received are the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, the George W. Bush Award for Excellence in Counterterrorism, the Sandra Day O'Connor Award for Distinction in Public Service, and the "Women of Power and Influence Award" given by the National Organization for Women.

Chair White is a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International College of Trial Lawyers. She also has served as a director of The NASDAQ Stock Exchange and on its executive, audit, and policy committees. Chair White is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

[Site Map](#) [Accessibility](#) [Contracts](#) [Privacy](#) [Inspector General](#) [Agency Financial Report](#) [Budget & Performance](#) [Careers](#)
[Contact](#)
[FOIA](#) [No FEAR Act & EEO Data](#) [Whistleblower Protection](#) [Open Government](#) [Plain Writing](#) [Links](#) [Investor.gov](#) [USA.gov](#)

[U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission](#)

- [ABOUT](#)
-
- [DIVISIONS](#)
-
- [ENFORCEMENT](#)
-
- [REGULATION](#)
-
- [EDUCATION](#)
-
- [FILINGS](#)
-
- [NEWSROOM](#)
-

[About the SEC](#)

- [What We Do](#)
-
- [Commissioners](#)
-
- [Securities Laws](#)
-
- [SEC Docket](#)
-
- [Division and Offices](#)
-
- [Reports](#)
-
- [Reports and Publications](#)
-
- [Careers](#)
-
- [Forms List](#)