



YPFS Lessons Learned Oral History Project

Diane Ellis

The Yale Program on Financial Stability (YPFS) contacted Diane Ellis by email to request an interview regarding Ellis's time as Deputy Director, Insurance and Research, at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. during the financial crisis of 2007-09. The FDIC played a critical role in stabilizing financial conditions and establishing confidence in the financial markets by guaranteeing newly issued debt on a temporary basis for banks and thrifts as well as financial holding companies and eligible bank affiliates. The agency also fully guaranteed certain non-interest-bearing transaction deposit accounts. Ellis played an important role in implementing the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program that proved so critical in stemming the crisis. Subsequent to the financial crisis, Ellis, a 31-year-veteran of the FDIC, was elevated to the Director of Insurance and Research in 2013, a post she continues to hold. In her current position, Ellis leads the FDIC's efforts in assessing economic and financial sector risks to the banking industry, directs policy research, develops and oversees risk-based deposit insurance pricing, and overall insurance fund management. She also oversees the collection and publication of bank financial information, including the Quarterly Banking Profile. She started her FDIC career in 1988 as a bank examiner in Orange County, CA. She later joined the agency's Division of Insurance in Washington, D.C., as a senior financial analyst, evaluating emerging risks to the banking and thrift industries. She was promoted to Associate Director for Assessments in 2002 before being named Deputy Director in 2008. Ellis has also served as special assistant to the FDIC's Chief Operating Officer, preparing and presenting matters to the board of directors.

[Full Interview Transcript](#)

[Lesson Learned Summary](#)
