



## YPFS Lessons Learned Oral History Project

### James Wigand

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The Yale Program on Financial Stability (YPFS) contacted James Wigand by email to request an interview regarding Wigand's time as Deputy Director, Franchise and Asset Marketing 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 through its liquidity and guarantee programs as well as in resolving an immense number of troubled banking institutions. Wigand oversaw the resolution of all insured-depository institutions during the crisis, finding and arranging acquirers for troubled banks or liquidating them as well as coordinating and acting as liaison between the chairman and board of directors at the FDIC. He served in this capacity from 1997 to 2010 at which time he was named the first director of the newly created Office of Complex Financial Institutions at the FDIC, an office formed under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. Wigand also acted as senior advisor to the chairman. A finance specialist, Wigand was the Assistant Director for Capital Markets, Division of Depositor and Asset Services at the FDIC, overseeing the issuance and servicing of residential and commercial mortgage backed securities, between 1995 to 1997. Prior to that role, he served in various executive positions at the Resolution Trust Corporation from December 1989 until its closing in December 1995. On leaving the FDIC in 2013, Wigand joined Millstein & Co. as a partner. When Guggenheim Partners bought Millstein in the fall of 2018, Wigand stayed on as a senior advisor and also started an independent consulting firm, Great Point Financial, roles he was actively engaged in at the time of this interview.

[Full Interview Transcript](#)

[Lesson Learned Summary](#)

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