



Lessons Learned Oral History Project

Brian Stoker

The Yale Program on Financial Stability (YPFS) emailed Brian Stoker to request an interview regarding his experience managing CDO structuring at Merrill Lynch and at Citigroup. Stoker joined Merrill Lynch in 1998 and worked for seven years structuring and trading asset-backed securities of different types. He joined Citigroup in 2005 through 2008. After the financial crisis, he was an Analyst at Carlson Capital from 2008 to 2011, then a Managing Director at StormHarbour Securities for six years through 2018.

Presently Director of Securitization at Korth Direct Mortgage, Stoker earned his BS in Commerce from the University of Virginia and his MBA from Harvard Business School. Before his career on Wall Street, he was a financial manager for six years at Peoples Telephone Company in south Florida. In this interview, Brian discusses the CDO structuring business, including CDO ratings, marketing, trading, investing, and synthetic CDOs.

[Full Interview Transcript](#)

[Lesson Learned Summary](#)
