



YPFS Lessons Learned Oral History Project

Arthur Murton

The Yale Program on Financial Stability (YPFS) contacted Arthur Murton by email to request an interview regarding Murton's time as Director, Division of 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. Murton participated in key interagency discussions on Columbus Day weekend in 2008 that proved pivotal in stemming the crisis as programs critical to stabilizing the financial system were agreed upon. At the meetings, Murton presented a broad outline of how the FDIC's systemic risk exception authority might be used to guarantee bank debt. The Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program and the Transaction Account Guarantee Program that resulted provided much needed ballast and steadied volatile financial markets. An economist, Murton joined the FDIC in 1986. He became the first director of the newly formed Division of Insurance in 1995, which was combined with the Division of Research in 2002 to become the Division of Insurance and Research. In 2013, Murton was named Director of the Office of Complex Financial Institutions, a group formed within the FDIC under the Dodd-Frank Act to oversee bank-holding companies with assets over \$100 billion and non-bank financial companies deemed systemically important. Since September 2018, Murton has served as Deputy to the Chairman for Financial Stability.

[Full Interview Transcript](#)

[Lesson Learned Summary](#)
