Diane Thompson was of counsel at the National Consumer Law Center from 2006-2014, conducting policy advocacy on legal issues affecting low-income consumers during the housing crisis. Subsequently, she oversaw regulations protecting consumers as a Managing Counsel in the Office of Regulations (2014-2016), and later as the Deputy Assistant Director and Acting Assistant Director, at the new federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

She currently leads the Consumer Rights Regulatory Engagement and Advocacy Project, which she founded in 2020 to promote inclusive public engagement in regulatory work, particularly for low-income communities and communities of color.

At the time of her interview, Thompson was on temporary appointment to the CFPB, and emphasized that, “Whatever I say does not reflect the views of the CFPB or the federal government. They're just my own views.”