The Yale Program on Financial Stability (YPFS) interviewed Christopher Seefer regarding his time as Director of Investigation for the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission. The 10-member bipartisan commission was charged with investigating and determining the cause of the crisis referring any cases to enforcement authorities. Established as part of the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009, the panel was composed of private citizens with expertise in economics, finance, banking, consumer protection, market regulation and housing.

Seefer, a lawyer in private practice, had been a savings and loan regulator earlier in his career who had investigated the S&L crisis in the 1980s. As the commission’s Director of Investigations, Seefer played a crucial role in its success, working directly with the commission’s General Counsel Gary Cohen and Executive Director Wendy Edelberg. After submitting the report, he returned to private practice.

Full Interview Transcript

Lesson Learned Summary