

Arleas Upton Kea



Arleas Upton Kea is the former Chief Operating Officer and Deputy to the Chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). After 35 years of public service, she now serves as an Independent Board Member of Thrivent Mutual Funds. Arleas was a leader in resolving two national financial crises and in leading recent initiatives related to the impact of the pandemic on the FDIC and the banking industry.

Arleas is a graduate of the University of Texas Law School and served as a Deputy General Counsel in the FDIC's Legal Division. In addition, she served as the Ombudsman, where she engaged with multiple stakeholders, including bankers, consumers, media, and congress. She founded the Coalition of Federal Ombudsmen which created the model for most Government Ombudsmen practices today.

Arleas has received numerous honors, including recognition for a Service to America Medal of Honor and she received a Presidential appointment for service on a White House Committee. She accomplished several "firsts" in her career and was recently recognized by her Alma Mater, the University of Texas at Austin, as a Distinguished Alumnus for her professional accomplishments and her contributions to the Nation, her university, and her community.