

Rostin Behnam was sworn in as the CFTC's 15th Chairman on January 4, 2022 after being unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Previously, Chairman Behnam served as CFTC Commissioner since September, 2017. The members of the Commission elected Commissioner Behnam as Acting Chairman effective January 21, 2021.

Since joining the CFTC, Chairman Behnam has individually and as sponsor of the CFTC's Market Risk Advisory Committee (MRAC) advocated for the CFTC to use its authority and expertise to ensure the derivatives markets operate transparently and fairly for participants and customers. Through his MRAC sponsorship, Chairman Behnam convened leading market experts and public interest groups to engage in public dialogue on such timely issues as global interest rate benchmark reform, central counterparty (CCP) risk and governance, evolving market structures, and since the summer of 2019, climate-related market risk.



During his time as Commissioner, Chairman Behnam also spearheaded efforts to invigorate internal discussions on agency-wide diversity and inclusion initiatives. He remains committed to ensuring that the CFTC remains vigilant in building and maintaining an inclusive workforce, supportive of employees and reflective of the diversity in the markets it oversees and the public it serves.

Chairman Behnam's arrival at the CFTC followed extensive experiences in financial and agricultural markets. As Senior Counsel to Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, Chairwoman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, he primarily focused on policy and legislative matters related to the CFTC and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, agencies within the direct jurisdictional purview of the Committee. Chairman Behnam's major responsibilities included advising Senator Stabenow on the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and related matters affecting the Treasury Department, the U.S. prudential regulators, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

After graduating from Georgetown University, Chairman Behnam worked as a proprietary equities trader in New York City before pursuing a Juris Doctorate at Syracuse University. During his legal studies, Chairman Behnam interned with the CFTC's Division of Enforcement in the New York Regional Office.

Upon graduation, he returned to his home state of New Jersey and joined the Bureau of Securities within the state's Office of the Attorney General. Following his time with the Bureau of Securities, Chairman Behnam practiced law in New York City.