

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Mark Christopher Crawford



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 [www.MarkCrawford.org](http://www.MarkCrawford.org) (Crawford LinkedIn Bio)

 [Crawford Public Media Appearances](#)

| **Nationality** United States of America

SUMMARY

A results-oriented financial sector expert with over 20 years of executive and director level experience in the United States of America and the Balkans (specifically Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia). Native English speaker who is fluent in Albanian and proficient in Serbian.

Extensive working experience in challenging political environments, managing visible high value financial and investment projects. Comfortable being a cross-cultural public figure in business, politics and media.

WORK EXPERIENCE

November 2008 - Present

**Director** **BlackburnSteele LLC, USA**

Primary Responsibilities/Achievements: Director of an American emerging markets investment and management company. Investments and activities include audit/advisory, banking, brokerage, film production, financial analysis, natural resource production, and private equity.

February 2011 – June 2016

**Founder/Director** **AKSIONER International Securities Brokerage, Albania**

Primary Responsibilities/Achievements: Established Albania's first licensed securities brokerage with capacity to enable local investor access to international capital markets. The firm works with Albanian regulated financial companies to develop market linked products, individual investors and local private placements.

September 2001 – August 2008

**CEO/CFO** **Opportunity Bank, Montenegro**

Primary Responsibilities/Achievements: Established a Greenfield retail bank, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Directly established the bank's Asset and Liability Management, treasury, accounting, payments, I.T. (including SWIFT and the Bank's ATM, VISA and MasterCard payment card products) and leasing arm. Initiated and managed credit arrangements with the IFC, EBRD, KfW. Performed the first issuance of preferred equity in Montenegro as well as the country's first stock buy-back transaction. Grew the bank to over 250 million EUR in assets with a pre-tax ROE to over 40%, while extending the bank's market share to reach over 40% of the economically active population of Montenegro. Opportunity Bank was sold with original shareholders receiving over a 20% year on year return. .

December 1996 – February 2001

**Administrator** **Albanian-American Enterprise Fund, New York & Albania**

Primary Responsibilities/Achievements: Managed the AAEF (Tirana office), an investment fund authorized by the United States Congress at 30 million USD, which ultimately grew to over 300 million USD, providing a 500% return on allocated capital.

DIRECTORSHIPS

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May 2013 - Present **Chairman American Chamber of Commerce, Albania**  
Primary Responsibilities/Achievements: Twice elected the as President of the Board by unanimous vote of the members of the American Chamber in Albania. Elections were held in May 2013 and again in April 2014 during the General Assembly meeting with H.E. United States Ambassador Alexander Arvizu and H.E. United States Ambassador Donald Lu, respectively.

February 2015 – Present **Vice President Republicans Overseas, USA**  
Primary Responsibilities/Achievements: Executive committee member. Member – Task Force on Territorial tax reform. Lead Plaintiff (along with Sen. Rand Paul – KY) to repeal FATCA. Chairman Republicans Overseas Albania (as of 2013).

October 2015 – Present **Director American Bank of Investments, Albania**  
Primary Responsibilities/Achievements: Independent Board Director and Audit Committee Chairman. As Director, helped grow the bank to over 250 million EURO in assets and return it to profitability. The Bank is an NCH Capital investment, which purchase the bank from Credit Agricole.

June 2010 – June 2015 **Partner BDO International, Montenegro**  
Primary Responsibilities/Achievements: Founding Partner in BDO International's affiliate in Montenegro (a "Top 5" Global Audit/Tax/Advisory network).

August 2007 – August 2009 **Chairman American Chamber of Commerce, Montenegro**  
Primary Responsibilities/Achievements: Established the Chamber as a Greenfield activity, serving as a founding member and first President of the Board of Governors of the American Chamber of Commerce in Montenegro, inaugurated by H.E. United States Ambassador Roderick Moore.

November 2001 – February 2007 **Director Opportunity Stedionica, Serbia**  
Primary Responsibilities/Achievements: Pro-Bono Board Member of Serbian savings bank started with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

September 1998 – March 2006 **Chairman Partneri Shqiptar ne Mikrokredi, Albania**  
Primary Responsibilities/Achievements: Founder and Pro-Bono Chairman of a USAID micro-lending company.

October 1999 – April 2001 **Chairman DIAMANTI Ventures, Inc., USA**  
Primary Responsibilities/Achievements American financial and economic analysis firm

EDUCATION

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1994 - 1995 **University College London (SSEES), University of London, UK** Masters Degree  
*Research: Central Bank Reform, Privatization, and Macroeconomic Stabilization*

1989 - 1993 **Miami University, Ohio, USA** Bachelors Degree

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue ENGLISH

Other languages

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
ALBANIAN	C2	C2	C2	C2	C1
	Replace with name of language certificate. Enter level if known.				
SERBIAN	B2	B1	B1	A2	A2
	Replace with name of language certificate. Enter level if known.				

Levels: A1/A2: Basic user - B1/B2: Independent user - C1/C2 Proficient user  
[Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#)

ACADEME

SUNY Empire College/University of New York in Tirana, Entrepreneurship Course, 6 months  
 Hunan Educational Institute, Changsha China, Summer English lectures  
 Canadian Institute of Technology, Tirana, Albania  
 Center of Entrepreneurship and Executive Development, Seminars  
 European University Tirana, Albania  
 Junior Achievement Montenegro  
 Kosovo Banking Authority, Prishtina, KfW/EFSE savings mobilization seminar  
 Luarasi University, Tirana, Albania  
 Ministry of Finance/Central Bank of Kosovo, Prishtina, Capital Markets Seminar  
 Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio  
 Staffordshire University, UK/Riininvest College, Kosovo  
 University of Tirana, Faculty of Economics, MBA Program  
 Zagreb School of Economics and Management

PROFESSIONAL  
 ACTIVITIES & DESIGNATIONS

Albanian National Economic Council of Prime Minister Edi Rama, 2013, 2014.  
 Albanian Delegation of Prime Minister Edi Rama to Serbia, November 2014  
 Albanian Securities Brokerage License - Earned in April 2011  
 Banker of the Year in Montenegro (2008) - Montenegro Chamber of Entrepreneurs and Tradesmen.  
 Campus Crusade for Christ (Instituti Jeta e Re), Albania, Chairman, Advisory Committee, 2013-2015  
 Chartered Institute of Bankers, Scotland - Principles of Banking  
 Delegate (Honorary, Ohio), Republican National Convention, August 2012, Tampa Florida  
 Delegate (Republicans Overseas), Republican National Convention, July 2016, Cleveland, Ohio  
 European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD), Board Nominees Registry  
 Forbes Magazine (2007) - top 50 micro finance organizations worldwide  
 Series 7 designation [US Securities License], Earned in 1996 (currently inactive)  
 SixSigma, Green Belt Course (Motorola University, Dubai)  
 S.W.I.F.T.