

FDIC News

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Employee Newsletter

MARCH 2021

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Name: Dawn Wike
Most recent position: Senior Management Analyst

Division: Office of Risk Management and Internal Control (ORMIC, formerly Division of Finance, DOF)

Location: Headquarters (Virginia Square)

When and where joined the FDIC: I joined the FDIC in 1990 (after nine years at the Department of Commerce, NTIS) when the Division of Accounting and Corporate Services (DACS) was in Georgetown before it became DOF. Through all of the moves from Georgetown, to Virginia Square, to D.C., and back to Virginia Square, I've remained in the same division for all my 31 years at the FDIC except for the last 3 months when Risk Management and Internal Controls (RMIC), Corporate Management Controls (CMC) became the Office of Risk Management and Internal Controls (ORMIC).

Career highlights: I started in the federal government as a GS-1 co-op, and yet at the time, I didn't think it would become my career. I worked full-time, went to college at night, and was a mother to my son. I left Depart-



Dawn Wike

ment of Commerce as a branch chief and joined FDIC as an Accounting Technician. Slowly, I worked my way up, becoming a Financial Systems Specialist and Team Leader. I was part of a team that transformed the FDIC processes from paper travel authorizations and vouchers, to the Electronic Travel Voucher Processing System (ETVPS), and then finally to the web

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MOVING ON

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application for authorizations and vouchers that we use today – the New Financial Environment Travel and Expense (NFE T&E) module. I received a Chairman’s Award many years ago for the Financial Data Warehouse Project and was so honored to be a recipient. The opportunity to travel for FDIC business is also a highlight because I met so many wonderful people from the field and regional offices. We all go through our careers trying to do our very best, and the very best is what I always strived for. About six years ago

I decided that I needed a change in my career and found one of the best moves I could have made and became a Management Analyst. When you get to the end of your career, you find that the biggest and most unexpected highlight from all my experiences with the FDIC is the people I have come to know as my “Work Family.”

Retirement Date: April 3, 2021

Plans for retirement: Spend as much time as we can with our new grandson, family, and friends (socially distant when necessary). When the pandemic is over, we plan to travel throughout the U.S., go overseas, cruise a lot, and spend time at

our beach house in South Carolina.

Comments and thoughts: With the pandemic happening over the last year, and both my husband and I having had COVID, a lot of things were put into perspective. I have truly been blessed to have the career that I’ve had and in many ways I am sad to leave. The last six years were challenging, fulfilling, and just amazing. I want to say to the folks who are just starting out or in the early years of their career at the FDIC, only you can make your career what it is, search out what you want to do, try something different and, most importantly, be happy with what you do! 🏠

Name: William Louis Brown

Most recent position: Case Manager

Division: Risk Management Supervision

Location: Chicago Regional Office, Chicago, IL

When and where joined the FDIC: I joined the FDIC on June 19, 1989 and was assigned to the Division of Risk Management Supervision within the Athens Field Office, Atlanta Region.

Career highlights: Throughout my FDIC career, I served as an Assistant Examiner, Commissioned Examiner, Senior Examiner, Acting Supervisory Examiner, and Case Manager. I also served as a Corporate Recruiter. My work as a Corporate Recruiter was especially rewarding because it afforded me the opportunity to discuss the FDIC’s many career opportunities and benefits with high-performing college students. I also participated in FDIC’s Mentoring Program.

Another highlight for me was working on the rewrite of the Loan Analysis School, where I was selected as a tester for the Genesis implementation process. I then traveled to four regional offices to present the Genesis application to individuals that would subsequently present the information to the regional and field office staff. Another opportunity I took advantage of was participating in the Shared National Credits program detail in New York City for several years. This detail gave me exposure to review com-

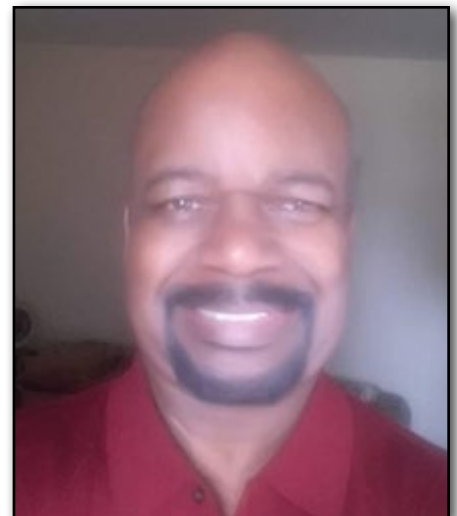
plex high level loan credits from various companies and industries from across the United States.

On the academic side, I attended and graduated from the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Georgetown University. Although very challenging during the three-year period of attendance (with two-week stays each year on campus during the summer), it was a very rewarding experience, giving me the opportunity to interact with bankers and personnel from other regulatory agencies. I developed some lifelong friendship while participating in the program.

Retirement Date: March 31, 2021

Plans for retirement: I am excited about entering this next chapter in my life. My primary plans for retirement are to relax and spend quality time with family and friends. I am also looking forward to getting back to the gym and restarting my exercise routine so that I can get rid of some extra pounds gained during this pandemic. Once the pandemic is over, I will start traveling again to various countries around the world. Currently, I don’t have any plans to return to any type of work; however, if I ever get bored (which I doubt), I will involve myself in church activities, youth mentoring, and other volunteer activities.

Comments and thoughts: As I look back over my career with FDIC, I can truly said that it has been a wonderful



William Louis Brown

experience and I am very grateful for the opportunities I was able to take advantage of. The work has been very challenging and interesting. It’s bittersweet to be leaving the Corporation that holds so many good memories. However, the best part of those memories are my colleagues. It was a privilege to work with them and the lifelong friendships I have acquired along the way will be cherished. I wish you all the best in your professional and personal lives. Keep well and stay safe. This is not good-bye but so long! 🏠

MOVING ON

Name: Lisa Kahn

Most recent position: Web and Social Media Specialist

Division: Office of Communications

Location: Headquarters

When and where joined the FDIC: I joined the Resolution Trust Corporation in 1991 as a Grade 4 Clerk Typist.

Retirement Date: March 31, 2021

Plans for retirement: My husband and I are relocating to Southport, NC. We'll figure out the rest when we get there. I'd other volunteer activities.

Comments and thoughts: 30 years? That's just crazy. My mom used to call the federal government the family business. My grandfather (HUD), my dad (DOJ), and both of my brothers (NSA and NASA) have worked for the government but none of their careers hold a candle to my time at the FDIC. The people, the opportunities, the challenges, the benefits, the lasagna, everything. It's been 30 years of puppies and rainbows 🐾



Lisa Kahn

IN MEMORIAM

Michael D. Houston

Former Regional Manager, DRR

Michael D. Houston, age 63, of Plano, Texas passed away in retirement on February 23, 2021. Michael's career spanned more than 38 years, including his service in the U.S. Army, from which he retired after 32 years of service. Following that, Michael was a Regional Manager within DRR, where he continued working until his retirement in 2018 after six years of FDIC employment.

Michael began his FDIC career immediately following his retirement from the U.S. Army as a Lieutenant Colonel. During his time in the Army, he served in multiple campaigns including Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Iraq. Michael also graduated from the University of Texas at Dallas with an MBA degree.

Pamela Farwig, Deputy Director in DRR, writes that "for those of us who knew Mike, he was a smart, generous man, who served his country not only with the FDIC for 38 years, but also with the Army in the Middle East."

Jim Krohn, Regional Analyst in DRR, writes that he had "the distinct privilege to work with Mike in DRR

for more than five years. We enjoyed discussions about military history, resolution planning, esoteric financial concepts, global politics and life. Mike was truly dedicated to the FDIC, the U.S. Army, and his family. He was generous to a fault in giving to others through Donated Annual Leave bequests and participating in CFC Food Drives. Wonderful memories with prayers of strength for Mike's family."

Faye Moritz, former FDIC employee, writes, "I worked with Mike at FDIC for many years. He was the nicest guy and was always there when you needed him. On a detail to Nevada, Mike and I took a road trip on our weekend off to Las Vegas. Driving there was so much fun as we rented a convertible and enjoyed the sights. Mike is the one that convinced me to ride the Roller Coaster at the top of New Your New York. Even though I was scared out of my skin, I did it! Thank you Mike for helping me face my fears. You sir will always be remembered."

Ron Bieker, former FDIC employee, writes, "I worked with Mike at the FDIC. Mike was a true gentleman of impeccable character and unquestion-



Michael D. Houston

able integrity. One could always count on Mike to do the right thing and always willing to help others. He was a true servant leader. God be with his family and may he rest in peace."

Michael is survived by his daughter, Michelle Houston; son, Matthew Houston; former wife, Anna Houston; mother, Mallene Houston; sister, Tammy Bair; and numerous other loving family and friends. Michael was preceded in death by his father, Max Houston. 🕊

IN MEMORIAM

David Cooke

Former Deputy to Chairman Seidman, RTC Executive Director, and Chief Learning Officer

David Cooke, age 75, of Selbyville, Delaware, passed away in retirement on Friday, February 19, 2021. His illustrious FDIC career spanned more than 27 years cumulatively, in which he served in several significant leadership positions.

David began his FDIC career as a Banking Examiner, right after completing his undergraduate studies in Accounting at the University of Maryland in 1968. In his decades of FDIC experience, he progressed towards FDIC leadership. He was the trusted sole Deputy to the late Chairman, L. William Seidman from 1987 to 1989. In 1989, during the height of the Savings and Loan Crisis, David was tapped as the Executive Director of the newly created Resolution Trust Corporation, where he served diligently until 1992. David's wife Geri writes that David's career was "a lot of work but he was so dedicated and loved every single minute of it!"

After leaving the FDIC in 1992, David went on to have a fulfilling career in the private sector, advising banks and foreign governments on financial sector issues. He also taught as an adjunct professor at George Mason University, George Washington University, Johns Hopkins University, and Salisbury University.

In 2003, David was asked to return to the FDIC as the Chief Learning Officer for the newly formed Corporate University, which he led until his retirement in 2006.

Arleas Upton Kea, Deputy to the Chairman for External Affairs, writes that "it is an honor to pay tribute to David Cooke – someone who contributed greatly to the FDIC's mission. I first met Dave in the late 80's when he served as the Executive Director of the Resolution Trust Corporation, where he oversaw and managed the strategies to dispose of assets of our failed in-

stitutions. Dave took on a critical job to our Nation – which he performed skillfully. Dave was equipped with so much experience and knowledge from the multiple positions he held at the FDIC. He had been a trusted Deputy to the late Chairman Bill Seidman. I worked very closely with Dave when he returned to the FDIC as the first Chief Learning Officer when the Corporate University was first established. Dave's leadership and dedication helped shape our Corporate University, promoting a culture of learning and development that remains key to our Corporation's success today. Above all, David was a friend to all, and it was such a pleasure to work with him. He has left a powerful legacy that continues to benefit the FDIC."

Bret Edwards, Deputy to the Chairman and Chief Financial officer, writes that "David was a class act and dedicated public servant. His stellar leadership, especially during the early days of the RTC, was crucial to maintaining the financial stability of United States. He will be sorely missed."

Robert Feldman, formerly the Board's Executive Secretary, writes that he first got to know Dave in the early 80's when Robert was a new attorney in FDIC's Honors Program. Robert writes that "Dave was a noted expert in the policy area of the old Division of Bank Supervision. It became clear how exceptionally well-regarded he was when Chairman Bill Seidman selected him in 1987 to be Deputy to the Chairman, the senior staff position in the entire Corporation. There, Dave was vital to guiding the agency's response to the Savings and Loan Crisis. When I moved to the Office of the Executive Secretary that same year and began to work on Board matters, Dave never failed to make himself available to me whenever I needed his assistance in addressing Board scheduling issues. Dave's work as Deputy to the Chairman was so impressive that, when Congress formalized its response to the S&L Crisis by creating the Resolution Trust Corporation in 1989, the FDIC



David Cooke

and RTC Boards appointed Dave as the RTC's Executive Director. There, he essentially served as the CEO of the RTC throughout most of its existence, helping its highly successful efforts to resolve the crisis. It is also noteworthy that appreciation of his executive management abilities led to his service in the late 1980s as Chairman of the FDIC's Audit Committee as well as to a return stint to the FDIC in the early 2000s as the FDIC's first Chief Learning Officer."

David will be most remembered for his sense of humor, quick wit and friendly demeanor. He was an avid runner in his youth, enjoyed spending time with his family, and playing games with both family and friends. He enjoyed teaching and helping others, especially those in need as evidenced by his academic and volunteer activities.

David is survived by the love of his life, his wife, Geraldine (Geri) M. Cooke; his beloved children, two sons, David A. Cooke and Christopher M. Cooke; two daughters, Anne Marie Plunkert and Elizabeth J. Cooke; three brothers, John Cooke, Bill Cooke, and Tony Cooke; one sister, Mary Brown; and five grandchildren, Julia Cooke, Abigail Cooke, Natalie Cooke, Oliver Plunkert, and Finn Plunkert. He was preceded in death by his late parents Alfred A. and Margaret (Hinton) Cooke, and his older brother Chip Cooke Jr. 🕊