

Office of the Director of National Intelligence



Jay Clayton

Director of National Intelligence

Jay Clayton was sworn in as the ninth Director of National Intelligence on August 3, 2026. Director Clayton serves as the head of the Intelligence Community (IC) and the principal adviser to the President for intelligence matters. He oversees and directs the implementation of the National Intelligence Program and integrates intelligence activities across the IC to deliver the most insightful intelligence possible to the President, policymakers, military leaders, and Congress. The Director is also charged with ensuring that all IC elements comply with the Constitution and laws of the United States.

Previously, Director Clayton served as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, where he oversaw matters involving terrorism, espionage, money laundering, bribery, extortion, and threats to our nation's critical infrastructure. He [prosecuted](#) some of America's top adversaries, including alleged IRGC and Kata'ib Hizballah terrorist Mohammad Al-Saadi, alleged narco-trafficker Nicolas Maduro and his convicted co-conspirator Hugo Carvajal, and dozens of members of the Sinaloa and CJNG cartels.

From May 2017 to December 2020, Director Clayton served as Chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), [completing](#) a sweeping modernization and streamlining of the regulation of our nation's public and private markets while bringing more than 2,300 enforcement actions resulting in over \$10 billion in penalties and disgorgement and returning more than \$3 billion to harmed investors. Director Clayton advised the IC on various matters and directly confronted issues with national security implications. He was also a member of several key regulatory and advisory bodies, including co-leading efforts to increase cyber resiliency and incident response capabilities across the U.S. and global financial infrastructure on the Financial and Banking Information Infrastructure Committee.

As SEC Chairman, Director Clayton frequently testified before the U.S. Congress on issues such as improving market integrity and efficiency, digital asset regulation, cybersecurity, retail investor interests, COVID-19-related regulatory responses, and U.S.-China economic interdependence. Following his SEC tenure, he testified on Beijing's threat to U.S. financial stability before the House Select Committee on Strategic Competition between the U.S. and the Chinese Communist Party.

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In the four years between his service as SEC Chairman and United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Director Clayton served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Apollo Global Management and as Of Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP. His leadership at Apollo was widely recognized, with the firm's CEO referring to him as "an incredible stabilizing force." Director Clayton also served as the Chairman of the Audit Committee of the American Express Company and held various other advisory and oversight roles in both the public and private sectors.

Earlier in his career, Director Clayton was an associate (1995-2000) and partner (2001-2017) at Sullivan & Cromwell, where he was a member of the firm's Management Committee and co-headed its Corporate Practice. He also formed and led the cybersecurity practice at the firm, working closely with key cybersecurity agencies in the government. In academia, Director Clayton served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Carey Law School beginning in 2009 and at its Wharton Business School beginning in 2021. From 2022 to 2025, he co-chaired the University's Institute for Law and Economics.

Director Clayton began his career as a law clerk to the Honorable Marvin Katz of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (1993-1995). He holds a B.S. in Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania, *summa cum laude*, a B.A. and M.A. (by tradition) in Economics from the University of Cambridge as a Thouron Scholar, and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, *cum laude*, where he was elected to the Order of the Coif.

Born at Fort Eustis in Newport News, Virginia, Director Clayton was raised primarily in central and southeastern Pennsylvania. He has been married to his high school sweetheart for 35 years. A lifelong athlete and avid sports fan, Director Clayton also serves on President Trump's Council on College Sports. Earlier in life, he was a lifeguard with the Ocean City Beach Patrol, played college soccer, and served as captain of Cambridge University's Men's Basketball Team.

