



James H. Freis, Jr.
Director

James H. Freis, Jr. was appointed Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) on March 5, 2007 by the Secretary of the Treasury. As Director, Mr. Freis oversees FinCEN's broad efforts to establish and implement regulatory policies to help detect and deter money laundering, terrorist financing, and other financial crimes, as well as support the law enforcement, regulatory, and intelligence communities through the analysis and sharing of financial intelligence.

Since his arrival, Mr. Freis has worked toward ensuring that FinCEN's regulatory requirements on covered financial institutions are efficient in their application, and effective in their service to law enforcement investigators, FinCEN analysts, and Federal and State regulatory examiners. This effort has included: simplifying the reporting regime, creating a paperless reporting environment, and increasing its high degree of usefulness to law enforcement; making FinCEN's regulations more accessible; and promoting a more efficient, risk-based process for compliance examinations. He continues to champion the modernization of FinCEN's IT systems as the Bureau's highest management priority, to leverage technology solutions and information across hundreds of agencies at the Federal, State, local, and international levels.

Under his leadership, FinCEN has strengthened its outreach to, and information exchange with, the regulated industry, to better align with the financial industry's business incentives and risk-based approaches for protecting financial systems from abuse. In furtherance of these efforts, Mr. Freis launched a multi-year industry outreach initiative to better understand how industry anti-money laundering programs operate in practice, and increased the provision of quality feedback to reporting institutions. A point of particular pride for Mr. Freis is FinCEN's ongoing work to combat mortgage fraud and loan modification scams, which has been a recognized success with industry, the regulatory community, and law enforcement at the Federal, State, and local levels.

Before his appointment to FinCEN, Mr. Freis served in the Treasury Department as Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Enforcement and Intelligence, providing legal support to the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, FinCEN, and the Office of Foreign Assets Control. Previously, Mr. Freis served as Senior Counsel in the Legal Service of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) in Basel, Switzerland, advising on the investment of monetary reserves and interacting with the international financial standard setters; as well as in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's (FRBNY's) legal department, where he advised on payment and settlement systems. During his student days he also worked as a teller at a bank in New Jersey.

Mr. Freis earned his Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School and his bachelor's degree from Georgetown University, graduating with honors from each institution. He is an attorney-at-law and a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charterholder. He is a member of the American Bar Association as well as the Committee on International Monetary Law of the International Law Association. He is the recipient of the Treasury Secretary's Honor Award, received recognition for outstanding service to the BIS, was the recipient of the FRBNY President's Awards for Excellence, and in 2009 received the Cressey Award from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners for achievement in the detection and deterrence of fraud.