

Walter K. Booker

Professional Biography

Walter K. Booker, Sr., is the (retired) former Group Vice President of the New Jersey Market Group of Ameriprise Financial Services Inc. He had overall responsibility for the strategic direction of the firm's business throughout the state, including 350 Financial Advisors, 35 employee leaders and staff people who support them in the service of over 55,000 clients. During his tenure at Ameriprise, his group became a top performer, finishing in the top quartile of its peer group 12 out of 13 years.

Mr. Booker joined Ameriprise Financial in August, 1995, after spending over a decade in senior management positions in the institutional sales, trading, and research divisions of Salomon Brothers Inc, Bear Stearns & Co., Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., and PaineWebber Incorporated.

Mr. Booker is a graduate of Harvard College and is active in numerous recruitment and fundraising activities for his alma mater, among many other community service investments. He is also the Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Directors of Sponsors for Educational Opportunity, Inc. (SEO), a not-for-profit educational and community service organization based in New York City that provides a range of academic, personal enrichment and mentoring services to underserved students from high school through college and throughout their careers. One of SEO's programs, the Career Program, recruits, trains, and provides internship opportunities to talented underrepresented students of color from colleges and universities throughout the United States as well as in London, Beijing, Shanghai, Vietnam, and Ghana. For example, SEO's impact on the financial services industry over the past twenty-five years has been profound – for many of its investment banking firm partners, it is the largest single source of entry-level professional talent of color and counts among its alumni dozens of partner-level and executive leaders.

Additionally, while with Ameriprise, he was actively involved in the creation and leadership its Community Relations Program in the New Jersey Market Group. Among the most notable of this program's accomplishments in the past decade is that Mr. Booker has led the company's effort to provide leadership skill training to more than 450 senior community, not-for-profit, educational and governmental leaders. Mr. Booker was also tapped to lead American Express's participation in the 9/11 United Services Group (USG) Financial Advice Referral Program, an unprecedented collaboration among six leading financial services organizations to provide support and state-of-the-art advice to those directly affected by this national tragedy.

He lives in Montclair, New Jersey, and has three children.