

John Oberdorfer

President, Squire Patton Boggs Foundation

John has lived in Washington virtually all of his life. He graduated from Dartmouth College (1966), and the Yale Law School (1969). He then received a Reginald Heber Smith Community Law Fellowship, and spent it working on economic redevelopment and employment discrimination cases for the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. Returning to Washington, John worked for two years at the General Counsel's office at the US Department of Transportation. Afterwards, he joined the law firm of Patton Boggs (now Squire Patton Boggs), where he practiced law until his retirement in 2015. He served on the firm's recruiting and management committees. His practice was primarily litigation before or concerning US administrative agencies.

In 2000, he, with others, formed a foundation, now called the Squire Patton Boggs Foundation. He currently serves as president of the Foundation. Its original funds came from attorneys' fees paid by the defendant in a civil rights employment discrimination case John and others won on behalf of African-American construction workers in the Washington area. The Foundation provides fellowship grants to law students at 16 US law schools for public interest work during their summers.

John has served on and been chair of the board of UPO, and been on the board of several other non-profit organization in the Washington area. He is married to Leslie Oberdorfer. They live in Northwest Washington, and have two grown children and three grandsons, all of whom live in Washington.

For more information about the Squire Patton Boggs Foundation, please see the Foundation's 20th Anniversary brochure [here](#).

Learn more about the Foundation's programs, Public Policy Fellowship and meet the 2020 Public Policy Fellows [here](#).

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