

[Securities Regulation Daily Wrap Up, ENFORCEMENT—SEC taps Gibson Dunn’s David Woodcock as new Enforcement Director, \(Apr. 8, 2026\)](#)

Securities Regulation Daily Wrap Up

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By [John Filar Atwood](#)

He replaces Acting Director Sam Waldon who took over after the abrupt resignation of Judge Margaret Ryan in March.

The SEC [appointed](#) David Woodcock as Director of the Division of Enforcement beginning May 4, 2026. Woodcock currently is a partner in the Dallas and Washington, D.C. offices of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and is co-chair of the firm’s securities enforcement practice group.

Woodcock will try to bring some stability to the division after the recent shake-up caused by the sudden resignation of then-director Judge Margaret Ryan. She served as Enforcement Director for only six months before stepping down March 16.

Judge Ryan was replaced by Acting Director Sam Waldon, a 14-year SEC veteran, who will continue in the role until Woodcock takes over. The SEC did not indicate Waldon’s next move, but Chair Paul Atkins thanked him “for his steadfast commitment to serve in key senior roles at the SEC.”

Prior SEC experience. Woodcock has previous experience at the SEC, having served as Director of the Fort Worth Regional Office from 2011 to 2015. During that time, he was a member of the agency’s Enforcement Advisory Committee and chaired the cross-office and cross-division Financial Reporting and Audit Task Force, which was designed to enhance the SEC’s detection and prosecution of accounting and financial statement violations.

At Gibson Dunn, Woodcock focused on internal investigations and SEC defense, with an emphasis on accounting and financial reporting, corporate compliance, and audit/special committee investigations. He also counseled investment advisers and private equity funds regarding SEC examinations and investigations, ESG matters, and portfolio due diligence and compliance.

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