

Daniel R. Elliott III, Chairman, Surface Transportation Board



Chairman Daniel R. Elliott III was nominated to the Surface Transportation Board by President Barack Obama on January 13, 2015, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 22, 2015, and was sworn in as the Board's chairman on June 26, 2015 for a term of office expiring December 31, 2018. This is Chairman Elliott's second term at the Board, having previously served as the agency's chairman from August 13, 2009 until December 31, 2014.

Chairman Elliott brings to the Board two decades of experience as an attorney, including 16 years litigating in the transportation field. Since first coming to the STB in 2009, Elliott has moved quickly to bring more openness to the agency. He has held public oral arguments on important cases, conducted numerous public hearings concerning important railroad-transportation rate and service matters, and is following through on President Obama's push for government transparency. Chairman Elliott ensures that the Board communicates effectively with all of its stakeholders, including Members of Congress and federal officials; state, local and community leaders; transportation industry participants and shipper interests, as well as the general public.

Chairman Elliott had led the Board to become a true forum for shippers and railroads to resolve disputes without litigation when possible. Under Chairman Elliott's leadership, the Board has promoted its dispute-arbitration system, bolstered the STB's informal dispute resolution process, and expanded the agency's Rail Customer and Public Assistance Program.

Within the Board, Chairman Elliott has implemented workplace policies that facilitate an open-door management environment, encourage creativity, and recognize and reward innovation. This workplace environment not only helps to retain skilled and dedicated workers, but also aids in the recruiting of the top-tier job candidates that are important to the agency's mission. Under his leadership, the Board has been ranked the "Number 1" small federal agency by the Partnership for Public Service in its Best Places to Work in the Federal Government rankings for the last five years.

Prior to joining the Board Chairman Elliott served (since 1993) as associate general counsel to the United Transportation Union. At the UTU, he practiced before the STB, as well as the National Mediation Board and the National Labor Relations Board. Earlier, Chairman Elliott worked in private practice in Cleveland and Washington, D.C. handling a variety of litigation matters.

Chairman Elliott was born in Ann Arbor, Mich., in 1962 and grew up in Cleveland. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1985 with a degree in political science and earned a law degree from Ohio State College of Law in 1989.