

Loretta Lynch

Loretta Lynch is a strong, independent, and aggressive prosecutor who has a reputation for fairness and justice. The Senate unanimously confirmed her on two occasions to be the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, a district that handles a wide variety of some of the most complex, diverse, and important cases in our country. Loretta Lynch is tough on terrorism, financial fraud, and organized crime and a staunch supporter of civil rights. Her commitment to public service is unwavering, as is her dedication to our justice system.

Lynch is a strong, independent prosecutor, who has twice headed one of the most important U.S. Attorney's Offices in the country and who has decades of experience as a lawyer and leader.

- Lynch has served over 15 years as a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York, the federal prosecutor's office that covers approximately 8 million people in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and Long Island, New York. The Senate unanimously confirmed her to be the head of the U.S. Attorney's Office on two separate occasions – once under President Clinton and once under President Obama.
- Throughout, she has demonstrated her leadership and earned the trust and respect of those she serves. Since 2010, she has been a member of the committee of U.S. Attorneys across the nation who advise the Attorney General on matters of policy, and she has served as chair of that committee since 2013.
- Lynch's leadership and experience also extend beyond her work as U.S. Attorney. She was a partner at a prestigious international law firm in New York for eight years; she was a member of the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York; she served as Special Counsel to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Tanzania; and she also served as a member of the New York State Commission on Public Integrity.

Lynch has a distinguished record of success prosecuting major cases and protecting our national security: she has aggressively pursued terrorists, she has prosecuted a range of financial fraud and cybercrime cases, and she has vigorously defended our civil rights.

- Under her leadership, her office has vigorously defended the nation against terrorism and organized crime. She successfully convicted terrorists including individuals who plotted to bomb the Federal Reserve Bank and the New York City subway system, and she has prosecuted some of New York's most violent and notorious mobsters and gang members.
- She has taken a no-holds-barred approach to public corruption and has brought cases against politicians of both parties and at all levels of government.
- She has successfully investigated and prosecuted significant financial and cybercrime cases, helping to secure a \$7 billion settlement with Citigroup relating to mortgage-backed securities fraud and a \$1.9 billion settlement with HSBC for anti-money laundering and sanctions violations, and taking down an international cybercrime ring that stole \$45 million from ATMs in a matter of hours.
- Earlier in her career, Lynch famously prosecuted one of the most notorious cases of police brutality in New York City history, the case of Haitian immigrant Abner Louima.

Lynch’s personal history taught her that justice is larger than any one case or conviction, and that a fair and equal justice system is essential to who we are as a nation.

- Lynch was born in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1959, the daughter of a fourth-generation Baptist minister and a school librarian. She recalls riding on her father’s shoulders to meetings her father held at his church for students planning anti-segregation boycotts.
- Lynch’s dedication to protecting civil rights and ensuring equal justice is deeply engrained. She was inspired by stories she heard of her grandfather, a sharecropper, who realized that “in rural North Carolina in the 1930’s, if you were poor and black and got in trouble with the law, you had very little recourse.”
- Lynch understands that, as she has said, “justice is only served when people feel protected by their government rather than targeted.”
- Lynch is also committed to improving the criminal justice system, recognizing that there is still much more work we can do to make it smarter and fairer.

Biography

Loretta Lynch, 55, has served as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York since 2010. She previously held this position from 1999 to 2001. In 2010, Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Lynch to the Attorney General’s Advisory Committee, naming her Chair of the Committee in 2013. She also sits on the Department of Justice’s Diversity Council.

Lynch began her legal career at Cahill Gordon & Reindel in New York, where she worked from 1984-1990. In 1990, Lynch joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. Over the next eight years she held a series of positions, including Deputy Chief and Chief of the office’s Long Island Division. In 1998, she became the Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney and served in this capacity until 1999, when her predecessor resigned. Lynch then served as interim-U.S. Attorney until she was nominated by President Clinton and confirmed by the Senate in 2000. Lynch resigned as U.S. Attorney in May 2001.

Lynch joined Hogan & Hartson as a partner in January 2002. Her practice included white collar defense and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. She also represented clients before investigative bodies such as the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Lynch worked as an adjunct professor at St. John’s University School of Law in 2000, and was appointed Counsel to the Prosecutor for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Tanzania from 2005-2007. She also served as a board member of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York from 2003-2005, and was a member of the New York State Commission on Public Integrity from 2007-2010.

Lynch was born in Greensboro, North Carolina. Her mother was a school librarian and her father was a fourth-generation Baptist minister. Lynch is married with two step-children. She received her A.B. from Harvard College, and her J.D. from Harvard Law School.