

Dr. Sharon Brown-Hruska

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Sharon Brown-Hruska provides consulting and expert witness testimony for cases alleging fraud or manipulation in securities and derivatives markets as well as in regulatory enforcement, litigation, and compliance matters. She has analyzed and testified before regulatory authorities on high-frequency and algorithmic trading strategies.

Dr. Brown-Hruska has served as a damages and liability expert in various matters, including cases involving regulatory requirements and compliance, proper treatment of customer funds, and losses arising from a broker-dealer and futures commission merchant (FCM) bankruptcy. She has testified as an expert in arbitrations before the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) on securities regulatory requirements and industry practices in cases involving fund and asset management of portfolios and structures including CDS, MBS, CMBS, and CDOs; subordination and asset structure; disclosure requirements; rating standards; and valuation of complex securities and derivatives. She has served as an arbitrator for the National Futures Association and serves on the Panel of Recognized International Market Experts in Finance (P.R.I.M.E. Finance), specializing in dispute resolution and international arbitration concerning derivatives and complex transactions.

Dr. Brown-Hruska also advises clients in valuation and modeling and has conducted valuations of derivatives contracts, the trading book, and multi-asset portfolios of physical and financial assets and the entities that use them. She has evaluated contract settlement procedures and pricing mechanisms for over the counter (OTC) transactions and derivatives contracts in credit, interest rates, currency, and commodities markets. She has consulted on swap close-out and valued settlement amounts and damages in bankruptcy disputes and litigation and on disputes relating to the valuation of affiliate guarantees, supply and marketing arrangements, and margins and fees in physical and structured deals in disputes in transfer pricing and tax cases.

Dr. Brown-Hruska is the former Chief Economist for the Department of State (2019–2021) and served as Commissioner (2002–2006) and Acting Chairman (2004–2005) of the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). While at the CFTC, Dr. Brown-Hruska served as a member of the President's Working Group on Financial Markets and the President's Corporate Fraud Task Force and played a leadership role in cooperative enforcement with national and international authorities. She worked closely with staff attorneys and the CFTC Office of Cooperative Enforcement to facilitate interagency actions, including the prosecution of manipulation and fraudulent Ponzi schemes in foreign currency, energy, and other commodities. Working with other agencies, she led the agency's efforts in the development of anti-money laundering (AML) and "Know Your Customer" requirements and was a leading member of the Financial Literacy and Education Commission.

Dr. Brown-Hruska has been a Professor in Tulane University's Energy Institute and a Visiting Professor of Finance in Tulane University's A.B. Freeman School of Business. She has lectured widely on investments and regulation and published in applied and scholarly publications including the *Capital Markets Law Review*, *Barron's*, *Regulation*, and *Journal of Futures Markets*. Dr. Brown-Hruska is also the lead author of "New Regulations for Securitizations and Asset-Backed Securities" in *The Handbook of Mortgage-Backed Securities* (Frank J. Fabozzi, ed., 2016).

Education

PhD and MA in economics, BA in economics and international studies, Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Publications

- *Crypto Market Surveillance Has Arrived*
- *Recent Trends in Virtual Currency Regulation, Enforcement, and Litigation*
- *BSA/AML Compliance and Enforcement: An Update for the Securities and Derivatives Industries*
- *The Handbook of Mortgage-Backed Securities, 7th Edition*
- *Market Manipulation & Spoofing (From Pit Trading to Big Data)*
- *Developments in Bank Secrecy Act and Anti-Money Laundering Enforcement and Litigation*
- *On Retail Forex, Regulators Have Failed To Reach Far Enough*
- *Cost-Benefit Analysis of the CFTC's Proposed Margin Requirements for Uncleared Swaps*
- *Don't Regulate Asset Managers as If They Were Banks*
- *Energy Policy Briefing Note: The Real Costs of Eliminating Unsecured Credit Lines and Requiring Cash Collateral in OTC Swaps Markets*
- *Cost-Benefit Analysis of the CFTC's Proposed Swap Dealer Definition*
- *Why 'Too Big to Fail' is Too Short-Sighted to Succeed: Problems with Reliance on Firm Size for Systemic Risk Determination*
- *Financial Disclosure and SFAS 157: Seeking Transparency in a Perfect Storm*

Practice Areas

Bankruptcy and Financial Distress Litigation

Financial Institutions and Banking

Financial Risk Management

Regulatory Economics

Securities and Finance

Valuation

White Collar, Investigations and Enforcement

About NERA

NERA Economic Consulting (www.nera.com) is a global firm of experts dedicated to applying economic, finance, and quantitative principles to complex business and legal challenges. For over half a century, NERA's economists have been creating strategies, studies, reports, expert testimony, and policy recommendations for government authorities and the world's leading law firms and corporations. With its main office in New York City, NERA serves clients from more than 25 offices across North America, Europe, and Asia Pacific.