

George J. Mitchell, Chair, Independent Oversight Committee



George J. Mitchell has had a long and distinguished career. He served for several years as Chairman of DLA Piper, and now serves as Chairman Emeritus. Before that he served as a federal judge; as Majority Leader of the United States Senate; as Chairman of peace negotiations in Northern Ireland which resulted in an agreement that ended an historic conflict; and U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East from 2009 to 2011.

In 2008, Time Magazine described him as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. He is the author of five books, most recently a memoir entitled *The Negotiator: Reflections on an American Life*, published in 2015, and *A Path To Peace*, published in 2016.

Senator Mitchell received an undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College and a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center. He served in Berlin, Germany, as an officer in the US Army Counter-Intelligence Corps from 1954 to 1956. From 1960 to 1962 he was a trial lawyer in the Justice Department in Washington, DC. In 1977 he was appointed US attorney for Maine, a position he held until 1979, when he was appointed US District Judge for Maine.

In 1980, he was appointed to the United States Senate to complete the unexpired term of Senator Edmund S. Muskie, and was elected to a full term in 1982, and served in the Senate for 15 years. He led the successful 1990 reauthorization of the Clean Air Act; authored the first national oil spill prevention and cleanup law; and helped pass the Americans with Disabilities Act, landmark legislation extending civil rights protections to the disabled. He left the Senate in 1995 as the Senate majority leader, a position he had held since 1989.

In 1995, he served as a Special Advisor to President William J. Clinton on Ireland, and from 1996 to 2000 he served as the Independent Chairman of the Northern Ireland Peace Talks. For his service, Senator Mitchell received numerous awards and honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In 2000 and 2001, at the request of President Clinton, Prime Minister Ehud Barak, and Chairman Yasser Arafat, Senator Mitchell served as Chairman of an International Fact-Finding Committee on violence in the Middle East. The Committee's recommendation was endorsed by the Bush Administration, the European Union and by many other governments. Senator Mitchell was the Independent Overseer of the American Red Cross Liberty Fund, which provided relief for September 11 attack victims and their families.