

Kessel Stelling

Advisor to the Board, Retired Chairman and CEO | Synovus Financial Corp.



Kessel Stelling joined Synovus in March 2006 when the company purchased Riverside Bank and merged it with Bank of North Georgia. He was named President and Chief Operating Officer of Synovus in February 2010, acting Chief Executive Officer in June 2010, and President and Chief Executive Officer in October 2010.

He became Chairman of the Board in January 2012 and Executive Chairman following his retirement as CEO in April 2021. Stelling retired as Executive Chairman of the Board on Dec. 31, 2022. He will continue in an advisory role until Jan. 1, 2025.

Under Stelling's leadership, Synovus navigated the 2007 financial crisis, consolidated 30 bank charters into one, returned to sustained profitability, and led the historic integration of 26 separately branded bank divisions into one Synovus brand name. Also, during his tenure, Synovus was named Best Regional Bank, Southeast, by Money Magazine for 2016 – 2017 and recognized as America's Most Reputable Bank by American Banker and the Reputation Institute in 2017.

Education

- B.B.A., Banking and Finance, University of Georgia
- Graduate School of Banking of the South, Louisiana State University
- Honorary Doctorate in Business Administration, University of South Carolina

Affiliations

- Georgia Power, Board Member
- Workday, Inc, CEO Advisory Board Member
- Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Board Member
- Georgia Historical Society, Board Member
- Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Former Board Member
- University System of Georgia Board of Regents, Former Board Member

Honors

- Leadership Character Award from the Robert K. Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership, 2014
- Blue Key Service Award, University of Georgia Chapter of the Blue Key National Honor Society, 2013
- Named to the list of the "100 Most Influential Georgians" by Georgia Trend Magazine every year since 2009
- "Distinguished Alumni Award" by the University of Georgia Terry College of Business, 2009