

The [Securities And Exchange Commission](http://www.sec.gov/about/laws.shtml) (the "**SEC**") is an agency of the United States federal government that holds responsibility for enforcing the federal securities laws and regulating the professionals and firms in the securities and investment advisory industry.   
  
**In Their Own Words - The SEC describes their purpose as follows:**   
" [The laws and rules that govern the securities industry in the United States derive from a simple and straightforward concept: all investors, whether large institutions or private individuals, should have access to certain basic facts about an investment prior to buying it, and so long as they hold it.](http://www.sec.gov/about/whatwedo.shtml) **To achieve this, the SEC requires public companies to disclose meaningful financial and other information to the public.** **This provides a common pool of knowledge for all investors to use to judge for themselves whether to buy, sell, or hold a particular security. Only through the steady flow of timely, comprehensive, and accurate information can people make sound investment decisions.**   
  
The [Division of Enforcement](http://www.sec.gov/divisions/enforce.shtml) is charged with the responsibility to ensure that this purpose is achieved. **Ms. [Linda Chatman Thomsen](http://www.sec.gov/news/press/2005-73.htm) is the Director of the Division of Enforcement.** **Before joining the staff of the Commission, Thomsen was in private practice at the law firm of [Davis Polk & Wardwell](http://www.dpw.com/practice/) in Washington, D.C., and New York, and also served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Maryland.** **In November 2004, Linda Thomsen was identified by writers and editors of the Wall Street Journal as one of fifty **Women to Watch.**** **She received her A.B. from Smith College and her law degree from Harvard University.**   
  
**The Commissioners of the SEC are:**

- [Chairman Christopher Cox](http://www.sec.gov/about/commissioner/cox.htm)**
- [Commissioner Paul S. Atkins](http://www.sec.gov/about/commissioner/atkins.htm)**
- [Commissioner Annette L. Nazareth](http://www.sec.gov/about/commissioner/nazareth.htm)**
- [Commissioner Kathleen L. Casey](http://www.sec.gov/about/commissioner/casey.htm)**

  
**What relevance does the Securities And Exchange Commission have with the subject of misconduct in bankruptcy proceedings?**   
  
**Attention High School educators and students: BankruptcyMisconduct.com hopes to announce the specific details of a written scholarship contest whereby students would submit written essays answering questions such as the above. Please watch for more details...**