

Andrew N. Ferguson

Andrew N. Ferguson (born June 17, 1986) is an American lawyer and government official serving since 2025 as the 57th chairman of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). A member of the Republican Party, he has served as an FTC commissioner since 2024.^[1] He previously served as solicitor general of Virginia from 2022 to 2024.

Early life and education

Ferguson was born on June 17, 1986, in Harrisonburg, Virginia,^[2] and grew up in the surrounding areas of Rockingham County.^{[3][4]} His father was an academic vice president at Bridgewater College, and his mother was a professor of accounting at James Madison University.^[4]

After graduating from Eastern Mennonite School in 2005, Ferguson studied history at the University of Virginia, graduating in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts with highest distinction.^[4] He then attended the William & Mary Law School for one year before transferring to the University of Virginia School of Law, where he was an articles editor of the *Virginia Law Review*. He graduated in 2012 with a Juris Doctor.^[3]

Legal career

After law school, Ferguson was a law clerk to judge Karen L. Henderson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He practiced antitrust law at the law firms Covington & Burling, Bancroft PLLC, and Sidley Austin, where he represented clients in private antitrust litigation and before the FTC and United States Department of Justice.^[3] From 2016 to 2017, he clerked for Justice Clarence Thomas of the U.S. Supreme Court.^[3]

Andrew Ferguson



Official portrait, 2024

Chair of the Federal Trade Commission	
	Incumbent
	Assumed office
	January 20, 2025
President	Donald Trump
Preceded by	Lina Khan
Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission	
	Incumbent
	Assumed office
	April 2, 2024
President	Joe Biden
	Donald Trump
Preceded by	Noah J. Phillips
Personal details	
Born	June 17, 1986
	Harrisonburg, Virginia, U.S.
Party	Republican
Education	University of Virginia (BA, JD)

Ferguson then served as chief counsel for nominations and the constitution to then chairman of the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Lindsey Graham, and as senior special counsel to then-judiciary committee chairman Chuck Grassley.^[3] He served as chief counsel to Mitch McConnell from 2019 until 2021.^[3] In that role, he was leader McConnell's chief legal advisor and judicial confirmation strategist.^[3]

In January 2022, Ferguson was selected by then attorney general of Virginia-elect Jason Miyares as the solicitor general.^[5] He succeeded Michelle Kallen the following month.^[6] He oversaw the appellate litigation of Virginia and its agencies; represented Virginia before the Supreme Court of the United States, the Supreme Court of Virginia and the federal courts of appeals; and defended Virginia's statutes and regulations from constitutional challenge.^[3]

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

Nomination and confirmation

A Republican, Ferguson was nominated by U.S. president Joe Biden in July 2023 to serve as a member of the Federal Trade Commission.^[7] Ferguson's nomination was reported favorably by the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on October 18, 2023, by voice vote.^[8] His nomination was confirmed by the full U.S. Senate by voice vote on March 7, 2024.^[9]

Commissioner

In June 2024, Ferguson dissented when the Commission issued a final rule banning non-compete clauses in most employment contracts.^{[10][11]} In August 2024, U.S. district judge Ada Brown issued a nationwide injunction prohibiting enforcement of the rule.^[12]

In September 2024, Ferguson disagreed with the Commission's decision to approve Chevron's \$53 billion purchase of Hess only on the condition that John B. Hess could not serve on the company's board.^{[13][14]}

In October 2024, Ferguson argued in a partial dissent from a disqualification motion that the removal protections provided to the commission's administrative law judges are unconstitutional.^{[15][16]}

Chairman

In January 2025, Ferguson was chosen by Donald Trump to chair the FTC, replacing Lina Khan, officially taking up the position following the president's inauguration.^[17] His position as chairman did not need to be confirmed by the Senate, since he was already confirmed to serve on the Commission.^[1] He has stated intentions to ease his predecessor's scrutiny of business mergers and acquisitions, while continuing critical oversight of big tech platforms.^[18]

In January 2025, the FTC under Ferguson closed public comment on surveillance pricing, a price altering tool some online retailers like Amazon have been accused of using. In surveillance pricing, companies use consumers' personal information such as location and web usage to adjust the price for

each individual.^[19] This occurred after the FTC had found in an earlier study that companies have indeed used consumer data to adjust and target prices.^[20]

In June 2025, the FTC under Ferguson initiated enforcement actions targeting major social media companies to limit the collection and use of personal data from children under 13, citing concerns over privacy and online safety.^[21]

According to *Bloomberg*, despite expectations to ease business restrictions, Ferguson has kept aggressive cases against *Meta Platforms* and *Amazon*, as well as continuing *Biden-era* investigations of *Microsoft*.^[22]

In January 2025, Ferguson dissented as a commissioner from the FTC's decision to file an antitrust complaint against *John Deere*, but later obtained a consent decree as FTC Chairman in July 2026 that resolved the litigation by granting farmers and independent repair providers greater access to diagnostic software and tools for 10-years in exchange for the FTC dropping the lawsuit.^{[23][24]}

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