James A. Bowen

Chief Executive Officer

James A. Bowen is Chief Executive Officer of First Trust where he leads the firm's strategic direction to address the diverse demands of the financial marketplace.

Jim's career spans four decades, marked by a commitment to delivering innovative investment strategies and fostering strong relationships with financial professionals. Early in his career, Jim held executive positions at various financial institutions, including Clayton Brown & Associates, a pioneering unit investment trust sponsor where he managed the First Trust product line. In 1991, Jim saw an opportunity to build a firm dedicated to serving financial professionals and their clients with integrity, innovation, and trust. As a founding partner, he led the acquisition of the First Trust UIT product line, laying the foundation for the firm's long-term growth.

Guided by data-driven decision making and strategic affiliations, Jim has expanded First Trust's global reach, with offices across the United States and around the world. Under his leadership, First Trust has become the largest independent UIT sponsor in the United States by sales, and a leading provider of exchange-traded funds both domestically and internationally. The firm also offers mutual funds, closed-end funds, separately managed accounts, alternative investments, variable annuities, structured investments, and custom wealth solutions.

Throughout First Trust's growth and evolution, the firm remains grounded in the core principles Jim established from the beginning. In addition to a broad range of investment products, First Trust delivers insightful resources for financial professionals—supporting its mission to provide trusted investment solutions in an increasingly complex financial landscape.

Jim earned his bachelor's degree from Wheaton College in Wheaton, IL.