



**Clarence Otis Jr.**  
**Chairman and Chief Executive Officer**

Clarence Otis Jr. has served as Chief Executive Officer of Darden Restaurants since November 2004 and Chairman of Darden's Board of Directors since November 2005.

Darden is the world's largest full-service restaurant operating company with annual sales of \$7.5 billion. The company owns and operates 1,900 Red Lobster, Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, The Capital Grille, Bahama Breeze and Seasons 52 restaurants in North America, employs approximately 180,000 people and serves more than 400 million meals annually. In 2011, Darden became the first full-service restaurant company ever to be named to the FORTUNE "100 Best Companies to Work For" list.



Clarence, 55, started at Darden in 1995, joining the company as Vice President and Treasurer and progressing to the position of Chief Financial Officer several years later. Prior to joining Darden, Clarence served as Managing Director and Manager of Public Finance for Chemical Securities, Inc. (now JP Morgan Securities, Inc.). He has also worked for Siebert Municipal Capital Group as Managing Director and Principal; The First Boston Corporation as Vice President, Public Finance; and Kidder, Peabody & Company as Assistant Vice President, Public Finance.

A member of the New York Bar Association, Clarence earned a Juris Doctor degree from Stanford Law School and worked as a securities attorney in New York City for four years prior to beginning his career in financial services. He earned a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, from Williams College in Williamstown, Mass., where he was elected a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Clarence is actively involved in a wide range of educational and civic activities. He serves on the board of directors of The Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission, VF Corporation, Verizon Communications, Inc., the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, and the Central Florida YMCA.

In 2010, Clarence was recognized for his career achievements in business with a Trumpet Award and also received the BCA Leadership Award from the Business Committee for the Arts for his vision, commitment and leadership in championing the Arts. In 2007, he was presented with a Horatio Alger Award and inducted as a lifetime member of the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. Clarence is also an active member of the Business Roundtable, the Business Council and the Executive Leadership Council — a professional network and forum for Fortune 500 African-American executives.