

William R. Rhodes



William R. Rhodes is a Brown University professor at large based at the Watson Institute and a member emeritus of the Institute's Board of Overseers. He is formerly senior vice chairman of Citigroup Inc. and of Citibank, and he continues to serve Citi as a senior advisor.

Rhodes gained a reputation for international financial diplomacy in the 1980s for his leadership in helping manage the external debt crisis that involved developing nations and their creditors worldwide. During that period and in the 1990s, he headed the advisory committees of international banks that negotiated debt-restructuring agreements for Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay. In 1998, when the Republic of Korea experienced liquidity problems, he chaired the international bank group that negotiated the extension of short-term debt of the Korean banking system. In early 1999, at the request of the government of Brazil, he acted as worldwide coordinator to help implement the maintenance of trade and interbank lines by foreign commercial banks to Brazil.

He has received decorations and honors from various governments and institutions, including an honorary doctorate in humane letters from his alma mater Brown University, Chevalier and Officer of France's Legion of Honor, decorations from Korea, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Venezuela, and Jamaica, and multiple awards from not-for-profit organizations in recognition of his contributions to international banking and finance.