

PROFILE

Edward H. Kaplan

Chair, Maryland Public
Broadcasting Commission



First named to the commission in 1996, Mr. Kaplan is a real estate developer and entrepreneur who works in the areas of technology, product development, food service, and finance.

In 2007, Potomac (MD) resident Edward H. Kaplan was named chair of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission (MPBC), the governing body of Maryland Public Television (MPT). MPT, a noncommercial broadcasting operation headquartered in Owings Mills, Maryland, is a state licensee member of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

Mr. Kaplan and his wife, Irene, created MPT's New Initiatives Fund in 2008 to enable the development of Maryland-centric programs and to support other activities of the organization. Mr. Kaplan also serves as an ex officio trustee of the MPT Foundation, Inc., the statewide public TV network's 501(c)(3) fundraising arm. In 2022, The Irene and Edward H. Kaplan Production Studio was dedicated to the Kaplans in recognition of their extraordinary philanthropy and service to MPT.

Mr. Kaplan served as a member of the board of trustees of America's Public Television Stations (APTS), a nonprofit membership organization that promotes the legislative and regulatory interests of noncommercial television stations at the national level through direct advocacy and campaigns designed to garner congressional support for public television.

Mr. Kaplan earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance and Commerce. After graduation, he began his career in the construction field, which later evolved into real estate development and investments in related fields.

In 1983, he was a founding stockholder and director of Palmer National Bank in Washington, D.C., and was a director of its successor, George Mason Bankshares, which was later acquired by United Bankshares, Inc. subsidiary United Bank (VA) on whose board he served until a restructuring in 2017.

Mr. Kaplan was a founding stockholder and director of Silver Diner Development, Inc. in 1987 and was a director of its successor, Silver Diner, Inc., until the latter was acquired by a private equity fund in 2016.

A leader in local and international philanthropic activities, Mr. Kaplan has served as president of the United Jewish Endowment Fund and the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington as well as of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington. His support of organizations and institutions in the region includes the National Children's Medical Center, the National Gallery of Art, the Capital Area Food Bank, and the Washington Hospital Center Foundation. He served for more than two decades on the board of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington.



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