

# Biography

---



**James L. Barksdale**  
**President and Chairman**  
**Barksdale Management Corporation**

Jim Barksdale is President and Chairman of Barksdale Management Corporation, a philanthropic investment company. He has over 35 years of operational experience. Prior to founding The Barksdale Group in 1999, Jim served as President & CEO of Netscape Communications Corp. from January 1995 until the company merged with America Online in March of 1999. He was Director of Netscape from October 1994. Upon completion of the merger with America Online, Jim joined AOL's Board of Directors.

Prior to Netscape, Jim worked at AT&T Wireless Services (formerly McCaw Cellular Communications) as their Chief Executive Officer. From April 1983 to January 1992, Jim served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Federal Express Corporation and prior to that, he served as their Chief Information Officer for four years. Jim Barksdale also held various management positions, including Chief Information Officer with Cook Industries and started his career at IBM.

In January 2000, Jim and his late wife, Sally, gifted \$100 million to the State of Mississippi to create a statewide reading institute, The Barksdale Reading Institute. This is a joint venture with the Mississippi Department of Education and the state's seven public university schools of education.

In 1997, Netscape received the "Entrepreneurial Company of the Year" award from both Stanford and Harvard Business Schools alumni groups. Computer Reseller News named Barksdale "#1 Executive of the Year," PC Magazine named him "Person of the Year," and at the 1997 ETRE Conference in Budapest he received the "Executive of the Year" award. Jim has also received awards such as the BEAR Award from Brown University for citizenship, the Headwave Award from the State of Mississippi, and a NetDay Hero Award for his work for education. He has also been inducted into the University of Mississippi Hall of Fame, the Mississippi Business Hall of Fame and the Memphis Society of Entrepreneurs.

Jim sits on the boards of several companies and foundations, including AOL Time Warner; Federal Express; Mayo Foundation; Sun Microsystems, Inc., and TechNet. Jim was also appointed to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board by President George W. Bush. He is also a Special Advisor for General Atlantic Partners. He is also currently serving as co-chair of the Markle Foundation Task Force on National Security in the Information Age, which recently published their report, "Protecting America's Freedom in the Information Age."

Jim received his B.A. in Business Administration from the University of Mississippi.