

Bill Neukom

Bill Neukom joined Microsoft as its first lawyer in 1978 and guided the company's legal and government affairs for 24 years until his retirement in 2002. As Executive Vice President of Law and Corporate Affairs, he managed landmark IP, copyright, and antitrust cases while establishing Microsoft's pioneering approach to corporate philanthropy. His deep expertise in global intellectual property rights helped shape emerging copyright law for software and hardware, creating a lasting impact across the tech sector. Under Neukom's tenure, Microsoft incorporated, relocated, went public, and expanded rapidly, establishing its influence on a global scale and navigating pivotal growth milestones for the company and the industry.