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Get a Free Account Sign up for a free account. No credit card required. Up to 5 free lookups / month. Search Search over 700 million verified professionals across 35 million companies. Get Contact Info Get contact details including emails and phone numbers (business & personal). Bradford L. Smith is Microsoft's president and chief legal officer. In this role, Mr. Smith is responsible for the company's corporate, external, and legal affairs. He leads a team of more than 1,300 business, legal and corporate affairs professionals working in 55 countries. These teams are responsible for the company's legal work, its intellectual property portfolio, patent licensing business, corporate philanthropy, government affairs, public policy, corporate governance, and social responsibility work. He is also Microsoft's chief compliance officer. Mr. Smith plays a key role in representing the company externally and in leading the company's work on a number of critical issues including privacy, security, accessibility, environmental sustainability and digital inclusion, among others. Mr. Smith joined Microsoft in 1993, and before becoming general counsel in 2002 he spent three years leading the Legal and Corporate Affairs (LCA) team in Europe, then five years serving as the deputy general counsel responsible for LCA's teams outside the United States. He has overseen numerous negotiations leading to competition law and intellectual property agreements with governments around the world and with companies across the IT sector. He has played a leading role within Microsoft and in the IT sector on government surveillance, privacy, intellectual property, immigration and computer science education policy issues. As the senior executive responsible for ensuring Microsoft fulfills its corporate responsibilities, he has helped the company achieve its consistent ranking in the top 2 percent of the S&P 500 for corporate governance scores. He has played a leadership role locally and nationally on numerous charitable, business and legal initiatives. In 2013 he was named by the National Law Journal as one of the 100 most influential lawyers in the United States. In 2014, the New York Times called Smith "a de facto ambassador for the technology industry at large." In addition to his work at Microsoft, he is active in several civic and legal organizations and in the broader technology industry. In March 2015, he joined the Netflix board of directors. He also works to advance several significant diversity and pro bono initiatives, serving as chair of the board of directors of Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) and as chair of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD). In addition, Smith chairs the board of the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship program, at the appointment of the governor. He grew up in Appleton, Wisconsin, where Green Bay was the big city next door. He attended Princeton University, where he met his wife, Kathy (also a lawyer), and graduated summa cum laude with a concentration in international relations and economics. He earned his J.D. from the Columbia University School of Law and studied international law and economics at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to joining Microsoft, he was an associate and then partner at the Washington, D.C.-based firm of Covington and Burling, where he is still remembered as the first attorney in the long history of the firm to insist (in 1986) on having a personal computer on his desk as a condition for accepting a job offer. To continue, please click the box below to let us know you're not a robot. American lawyer and CLO of Microsoft Brad Smith Smith at the 2017 Web Summit Born Bradford Lee Smith (1959-01-17) January 17, 1959 (age 63) Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States Nationality American Alma mater Princeton University Columbia Law School Graduate Institute of International Studies Occupation Attorney Title Vice Chairman and President, Microsoft Spouse(s) Kathy Surace-Smith Website Brad Smith - Microsoft.com Bradford Lee Smith [1] (born January 17, 1959) [2] is an American attorney and business executive serving as Vice Chairman of Microsoft since 2021, and President since 2015. Early life and family Smith was born January 17, 1959 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. [3] His father was an engineer and manager at Wisconsin Bell and moved the family around the state several times. [4] [5] Smith graduated from Appleton West High School in Appleton, Wisconsin, where he was student body president and editor of the school paper; while class president, he brokered one of his first deals, a school hall pass system. [6] [4] Smith met his wife Kathy Surace-Smith while they were undergraduates at Princeton University. Smith studied in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and graduated with a B.A. in 1981 after completing a 199-page long senior thesis titled "The Politics of Refugees: The Development and Promotion of International Refugee Law". [7] Smith and his wife graduated from Princeton together in 1981 and both continued to Columbia Law School. They married in 1983, and spent the school year of 1983-1984 studying international law at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Switzerland, before returning to Columbia to graduate in 1985. [6] [8] [9] Surace-Smith is vice president and general counsel of Seattle biotech company NanoString Technologies. [9] They have a son, born in 1992, and a daughter born in 1995. [6] Career Smith's first job after graduation was as law clerk to United States federal judge Charles Miller Metzner. [3] In 1986, he joined the Washington, D.C. law firm Covington & Burling. He had one condition for the job: to have his own personal computer. He was the first person in the firm with one; it ran Microsoft Word version 1.0. Smith worked for three years in Washington D.C., and four in London, running Covington's software practice there. [6] By 1993 he had become a partner. [10] Microsoft Brad Smith meeting with Secretary of Defense Ash Carter in 2016 Smith joined Microsoft in 1993. For three years he led its Legal and Corporate Affairs team in Europe, then five years as deputy general counsel, before being named general counsel in 2002. [6] [10] and senior vice president. [11] As Microsoft's general counsel, Smith worked as lawyer, politician, and diplomat. [6] In 2001, Microsoft had just settled United States v. Microsoft Corp., a four-year antitrust battle about bundling the Internet Explorer web browser with the Microsoft Windows operating system. [4] Smith's application of a single slide that said: "time to make peace." Microsoft chairman Bill Gates and CEO Steve Ballmer agreed. [4] Smith has been described as conciliatory toward competitors and regulators. [4] He led negotiations to settle cases with several of Microsoft's competitors, including AOL Time-Warner, Sun Microsystems, and Be Inc., paying \$5 billion to plaintiffs, aiming for win-win resolutions, and garnering praise from their chief counsels. [4] [6] [10] Smith also oversaw negotiations with the European Commission over antitrust accusations, meeting foreign leaders, lobbying, and settling most issues in 2010. [6] Internally, Smith pushed for diversity within the company's legal division, making executive bonuses dependent on Microsoft and associated law firms' increasing employment of racial minority, women, and LGBT employees, and committing pro bono hours for immigrants. [6] [12] In 2008, the goals were not met, and Microsoft executives donated their bonuses to charity; the diversity goals were met every subsequent year. [12] In 2013, the National Law Journal named him one of "The 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America". [13] By 2014, Smith was the longest serving member of Microsoft's top leadership, and considered "a de facto ambassador for the technology industry at large." [14] winning plaudits for diplomacy from State Department officials like Anne-Marie Slaughter and Stuart Eizenstat. [6] He filed four different lawsuits defending customer data against the US government from 2013 to 2016 [15] and was a noted supporter of Apple Inc. when the FBI demanded access to a locked iPhone. [16] He was able to organize a Reform Government Surveillance coalition including rivals such as Google, Yahoo!, and Apple, Inc. to support Microsoft in Microsoft Corp. v. United States, an ongoing case initially filed in 2013 in which the company challenges the right of the United States to get access to a user email stored in Ireland. [14] Smith was promoted to president and chief legal officer of Microsoft in 2015 by CEO Satya Nadella, becoming the first President of Microsoft since Richard Belluzzo in 2002. [10] In these roles, Smith is responsible for Microsoft's corporate, external, and legal affairs, and is also the firm's chief compliance officer. [17] Within three months in his new position, Smith announced the launch of Microsoft Philanthropies, a branch of the company devoted to donating money and services to the public good. [18] In the following two years, Microsoft Philanthropies donated tens of millions in grants to education and refugee organizations, and hundreds of millions in Microsoft Azure cloud computing services to nonprofits and researchers. [19] As Microsoft president, Smith continued being called a leader of the tech industry on privacy and immigration. [20] He asked the Trump administration for an exception to its travel ban [21] and said Microsoft would defend its employees affected by the revocation of Deferred

