John W. Thompson

John W. Thompson joined the Microsoft Board in February 2012, and became independent chairman of Microsoft Corporation on February 4, 2014.

Thompson brings over 40 years of experience in the technology industry. Most recently, he served as chief executive officer of Virtual Instruments, a privately held company. Prior to this, he was the chief executive officer of Symantec for 10 years, during which time he helped transform the company into a leader in security, storage, and systems management solutions. Thompson also held several leadership positions during his 28 years at IBM in the areas of sales, marketing and software development, and he also served as general manager of IBM Americas.

Since 2009, Thompson has been an active investor in early-stage technology companies in the Silicon Valley. He currently serves as either an advisor or board member with Liquid Robotics, ReviverMX and Illumio. Previously, he served on the boards of NIPSCO (Northern Indiana Public Service Company), Fortune Brands, Seagate Technologies, and United Parcel Service (UPS).

In addition to his services in the technology industry, he is also a member of the board of trustees for the Wetland America Trust. He has served on the national board of Teach for America and on several government commissions that include the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, the National Infrastructure Advisory Committee, and the Silicon Valley Blue Ribbon Task Force on Aviation Security and Technology.

Thompson received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Florida A&M University, and a master’s degree in management science from MIT’s Sloan School of Management. In 2008, he received an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Notre Dame, Mendoza College of Business, and in 2014 he received an honorary doctorate degree from Florida A&M University.
Anne Sheehan (Interviewer)
Director Corporate Governance, CalSTRS

Ms. Sheehan is the Director of Corporate Governance for the California State Teachers’ Retirement System (CalSTRS), the largest teacher’s public pension fund in the USA, where she is responsible for overseeing all corporate governance activities for the fund including proxy voting, company engagements and managing over $4 billion placed with activists managers.

Prior to that, she served as Chief Deputy Director for Policy at the California Department of Finance. During her tenure at Finance, Ms. Sheehan served on both the CalSTRS and CalPERS Boards as well as serving as the Executive Director of the Governor’s Post-Employment Benefits Commission. Ms. Sheehan served as the Chair of the Council of Institutional Investors for two years, as well as having served two terms on the NASDAQ Listing Council.

Ms. Sheehan is currently Vice Chair of the SEC’s Investor Advisory Committee, a Member of the Advisory Board of the Weinberg Center for Corporate Governance at the University of Delaware, and a Member of the Board of Directors of the 30% Coalition.

Ms. Sheehan was named one of the 100 most influential people on corporate governance by Directorship magazine for the past six years.
Rob Feckner (Introduction)

Board President, CalPERS

Rob Feckner is serving his fifth term on the CalPERS Board of Administration, and his 13th one-year term as president.

He has worked for the Napa Valley Unified School District for the past 40 years, where he is currently employed as a glazing specialist. He has also worked as a school bus driver and instructional assistant for special needs students.

Rob has successfully completed the certificate programs from the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, including the Certificate of Achievement in Public Plan Policy for both pension and health administration, and is a graduate of the Trustees Masters Program.

He is a past president and life member of the California School Employees Association, past executive vice president of the California Labor Federation, and a member of the Napa County Democratic Central Committee.

He and his wife live in Napa, California.