John W. Thompson
Chief Executive Officer, Virtual Instruments
Chairman of the Board, Microsoft Corporation

On February 4, 2014, John W. Thompson was appointed a chairman of the board of directors of Microsoft Corporation. Thompson has become an active investor in early-stage technology companies in Silicon Valley. In April 2010, he became the chief executive officer of one of the portfolio companies, Virtual Instruments, a privately-held company focused on optimizing the IT infrastructure for today's cloud computing environments.

Thompson was chairman of the board of directors of Symantec Corporation from 1999 to 2011. During his 10-year tenure as chief executive officer, he helped transform Symantec into a leader in security, storage and systems management solutions delivered to a broad base of customers, from individual consumers to the largest enterprises in the world. From 1999 to 2009, Symantec's revenues grew from $632 million to $6.2 billion and its worldwide workforce reached more than 17,500 employees.

In July 2009, Thompson was appointed to a United States Congressional panel, the Financial Crisis Inquiry Committee, to investigate the cause of the U.S. and global financial crisis. He has also served on the National Infrastructure Advisory Committee to make recommendations regarding the security of the nation's critical infrastructure. In addition, Thompson has served as the chair of the Silicon Valley Blue Ribbon Task Force on Aviation Security and Technology to identify and evaluate technology-driven solutions to improve the security and efficiency of national and local aviation.

He has served on the national board of Teach for America, an organization dedicated to eliminating educational inequities for all children, and was recognized in 2010 by Silicon Valley Education Foundation for his commitments to improve the educational opportunities of all children. In addition, in 2008 he was inducted into the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame.

On the business front, Thompson serves on the board of several early stage companies lending his experience in building global businesses to the entrepreneurial founders. He also serves as a director on the boards of UPS, the world leader in global logistics, and Seagate Technology, the world leader disk-drive development and manufacturing.

Thompson completed his undergraduate studies at Florida A&M University and holds a master's degree in management science from MIT's Sloan School of Management. In addition, in May 2008, he received an honorary doctorate degree from Notre Dame University.