

TIM CRANTON

Tim Cranton
Associate General Counsel
Microsoft Digital Crimes Unit

As associate general counsel of the Digital Crimes Unit, Tim Cranton leads Microsoft's legal efforts to protect Internet users and businesses from cybercrime, including data theft, hacking, malicious code attacks, botnets, spam, spyware and other online fraud and abuse. These efforts focus on strong enforcement and policy solutions as well as the development of technology tools and educational programs to help keep consumers and businesses safe online. Cranton works with a worldwide team of lawyers, investigators, technical analysts and other cybercrime specialists to promote a healthy, safer and more secure Internet community.

Cranton began his career at Microsoft specializing in Internet and intellectual property issues, heading up the company's Internet anti-piracy initiatives worldwide. In this position, Cranton oversaw Microsoft's Internet and auction site monitoring programs, working closely with auction sites and Internet service providers to identify and shut down infringing Internet postings and auctions offering illegal and counterfeit Microsoft software. Cranton extended his Internet expertise into the areas of online security and safety, building global programs to address spam, phishing, botnets, malware, child exploitation and other online threats. In 2006, the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children acknowledged Cranton for his work on child safety and appointed him as the Microsoft representative to its board of directors.

Before joining Microsoft, Cranton worked in Seattle as a senior attorney at the Bogle & Gates law firm, where he focused on general litigation and white-collar criminal defense. During this time, he conducted internal corporate investigations relating to potential fraud in areas such as government contracts, software licensing disputes, securities and product liability. Previously, Cranton worked as a deputy prosecuting attorney for the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office in Seattle.

Cranton graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of arts in public policy from Duke University. He obtained his law degree from Yale University, where he participated in the AIDS Litigation Project and served as articles editor for the Yale Law & Policy Review.