

Michael D. Fricklas

Former Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary, Viacom, Inc.



Michael Fricklas has served in senior management of Viacom’s legal department since 1993; since 1998 he has been general counsel and secretary, Viacom’s most senior legal position.

Fricklas is responsible for the legal affairs of Viacom, home to the world’s premier entertainment brands across television, motion pictures, online, and mobile platforms. Viacom’s iconic brands include MTV, VH1, Nickelodeon, BET, Comedy Central, Spike, TV Land, CMT, Paramount Pictures, and many others.

At Viacom, Fricklas played an integral role in guiding complex transactions and resolving disputes, in coordinating the company’s legal and business affairs activities, in corporate governance, and in leading Viacom’s Law Department. He is a frequent panelist and lecturer on corporate governance and on the law and business of entertainment.

Fricklas received a B.S.E.E. from the University of Colorado’s College of Engineering and Applied Sciences in 1981 and a J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Boston University School of Law in 1984. Prior to Viacom, Fricklas practiced law related to venture capital financing, technology and other securities matters, and mergers and acquisitions in private practice, and was general counsel of the North American businesses of a global mining concern.

Fricklas was past president of the Association of General Counsel and serves in a variety of other professional and community activities, including as Secretary and a member of the Board of Jazz at Lincoln Center, and as a member of the Board of Overseers of Boston University, and the Board of Visitors of Boston University School of Law.

He was named one of “America’s 50 Outstanding General Counsel” by *The National Law Journal* in 2016, and the Viacom Law Department was named as “Best Legal Department 2016” by *Corporate Counsel* magazine. Fricklas has received numerous awards including being the recipient of the Raising the Bar Award from *The Hollywood Reporter*, the Counsel of the Year Award from the Association of Media and Entertainment Counsel, the *Legal 500* 2014 Entertainment Individual of the Year, and the top honor for general counsel, the “Excellence in Corporate Practice” award from the Association of Corporate Counsel. He also serves as a member of the planning committee for the Tulane Corporate Law Institute, a member of the Board of Advisors of the Center on Civil Justice at New York University School of Law, and a member of New York’s permanent commission on access to justice.



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