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**MICROSOFT, SMITH TO RECEIVE
CPR INSTITUTE'S 2008 CORPORATE LEADERSHIP AWARD**

***Honorees Recognized for Leadership and Commitment to the
Principles of Conflict Management and Resolution***

New York, NY, August 11, 2008 – The International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution (CPR Institute), a membership-based, nonprofit alliance of global corporations, law firms, scholars, and public institutions dedicated to the principles of conflict prevention and alternative dispute resolution, announces the recipients of the organization's 2008 Corporate Leadership Award. This year's honorees are Microsoft Corporation's Legal and Corporate Affairs Department and Brad Smith, Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary.

Each year, the CPR Institute honors a corporation that has demonstrated leadership and commitment to the principles of conflict management and resolution and has institutionalized alternative dispute resolution (ADR) principles into their corporate and industry culture. Previous honorees include Johnson & Johnson, General Electric, Ernst & Young, and ConocoPhillips.

A CPR Institute member since 2003, Microsoft is a pioneer in the corporate legal community's commitment to conflict resolution practices and principles. Under Brad Smith's leadership, the company has used alternative dispute resolution on a variety of litigation matters, as well as using preventive measures. It has been a strong advocate for ADR in technology disputes among CPR members, and in industry circles.

Microsoft's most widely-known involvement with ADR was the successful mediation of the U.S. v. Microsoft case in 2001, which involved extensive negotiations with government attorneys from many states and the DOJ.

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“For their corporate leadership and commitment to principled conflict management and resolution, the CPR Institute is proud to honor Microsoft’s Legal and Corporate Affairs Department and Brad Smith,” said Kathleen A. Bryan, CEO of CPR Institute. “Microsoft has set a successful benchmark against which all companies’ legal departments should be measured.”

The 2008 Corporate Leadership Award will be presented at a black tie dinner on Thursday, October 2, 2008, at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York City. The event will draw approximately 500 attendees representing the top corporations, law firms, scholars, and public institutions in the country. The funds raised by the Corporate Leadership Award Dinner support CPR Institute’s educational, research and public policy programs. For more information about the Dinner or to reserve a table, visit www.cpradr.org.

About Microsoft

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq “MSFT”) is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential.

About Brad Smith

Brad Smith leads Microsoft’s Department of Legal and Corporate Affairs, which is responsible for all legal work and for government, industry and community affairs activities. Smith has played a leading role at Microsoft on intellectual property, competition law, and other Internet legal and public policy issues. He is also the company’s chief compliance officer. Since becoming general counsel in 2002, he has overseen numerous negotiations with governments, including Microsoft’s 2002 antitrust settlement with state attorneys general, negotiations with the Federal Trade Commission and European Commission, and several agreements with Fortune 100 companies to address antitrust or IP issues. Smith is responsible for Microsoft’s intellectual property work, including all of its IP portfolio, licensing and public policy activities. He has helped spearhead the growth in the company’s patent portfolio and the launch of global campaigns to bring enforcement actions against those engaged in software piracy and counterfeiting and against viruses, spyware and other threats to Internet safety. He is also responsible for the expansion of Microsoft’s citizenship and philanthropic activities, work to revise its contracts to make them more customer-friendly, and the strengthening of legal compliance programs, issuing Standards of Business Conduct for all Microsoft employees and creating an Office of Legal Compliance.

About CPR Institute

CPR Institute provides thought leadership and innovation as the global resource for conflict management and resolution of complex business-related disputes. Our wealth of intellectual property and published material has educated and motivated General Counsel and their law firms around the world toward an increased reliance on alternative forms of dispute resolution rather than litigation. CPR Institute’s membership is comprised of general counsel and senior lawyers of Fortune 1,000 organizations, partners in the top law firms around the world, as well as leading judges, government officials, neutrals, and academicians. Our proprietary panel of esteemed arbitrators and mediators has provided resolutions in thousands of cases, with billions of dollars at issue, worldwide. For more information, please visit www.cpradr.org.