

Michael A. Dillon

Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary, Adobe Systems Incorporated



Mike Dillon is anything but your typical general counsel. As Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary for Adobe, Dillon is bucking the legal status quo and creating the in-house department of the future.

His distaste for acronym use and “legalese” drove him to rewrite Adobe’s contracts to plain English and develop a whole new writing style guide for the legal community. He has led his global legal affairs, public policy, and compliance operations teams to ditch the filing cabinets and shift to electronic documents and e-signatures. And he has abandoned closed offices for an open work environment that encourages collaboration and faster decision making. He has been recognized for his leading-edge strategies in *The Recorder*, the *National Law Journal*, and *Practical Law*.

Not averse to risk, Dillon is an adventure seeker who commits to getting “off the grid” at least once a year. Whether kayaking in Greenland or biking across the U.S., these adventures give him the clarity and perspective to be a strong leader. He extends his passion for the environment by serving as the executive sponsor of Adobe’s Sustainability commitment.

As an avid writer, Dillon chronicles his many adventures (personal and professional) on his blog and is always working on this next book. Given his love for writing, it may come as no surprise that Dillon received bachelor’s degrees in communications and sociology from UC San Diego before getting his Juris Doctorate from Santa Clara University.

His previous positions include general counsel and corporate secretary for Silver Spring Networks, Sun Microsystems, and ONI Systems. He was formerly a board member of the Association of Corporate Counsel. Currently, he is a member of the Leadership Council of Legal Diversity (LCLD) and a board member of Adventure Cycling Association.

If Dillon were not at Adobe, he’d like to be playing second baseman for the Oakland A’s.

