Larry W. Sonsini Elected to Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Board of Trustees


Sonsini is the senior and founding partner of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in Palo Alto, California, a leading firm serving the technology and life-science sectors. His duties have included serving as CEO as well as chairman for more than 35 years, during which he has gained international recognition for his expertise in the areas of corporate law, corporate governance, securities, mergers and acquisitions.

“Larry is among the world’s leaders both in law and institutional governance, and his guidance will be invaluable to Colonial Williamsburg as we approach the foundation’s centennial and the nation’s 250th anniversary in 2026,” said Carly Fiorina, chair of Colonial Williamsburg board of trustees, former chairman and CEO of Hewlett-Packard, and founder and chairman of Carly Fiorina Enterprises. “Colonial Williamsburg plays a critical role in helping Americans understand the complexities and contradictions of our shared past, and Larry’s wisdom and innovative thinking will help guide the foundation into its second century and beyond.”
Sonsini has served as a special counsel and special advisor to the boards of technology enterprises including Apple, Google, Netflix, Tesla, Hewlett-Packard, Genentech, and Sun Microsystems. He served on the New York Stock Exchange’s board of directors from 2001 to 2003 as and has served as chairman of its Regulation, Enforcement and Listing Standards Committee and its Commission on Corporate Governance. He is currently a member of NYSE’s Proxy Working Group.

“For nearly a century Colonial Williamsburg has worked to uncover new knowledge, and increasingly leverages technology to reach new audiences, ensuring that they see themselves in our shared past,” said Cliff Fleet, Colonial Williamsburg president and CEO. “Our continued success depends on our dedicated employees, generous donors, community partners and strong leadership from board members like Larry. We’re incredibly fortunate to have his support and leadership, and I’m thrilled to welcome him to the foundation.”

Sonsini earned his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, where he served on the Board of Visitors from 1990-1996. He has taught as an adjunct professor at Berkeley Law and at Stanford Law School. He has served as chairman of the board of trustees of the American College of Governance Counsel, as a trustee of Santa Clara University and the American University of Rome, and as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Securities and Exchange Commission’s Advisory Committee on Capital Formation and Regulatory Processes. He has also served on the SEC Historical Society’s board of trustees, and on the board of directors of the Computer History Museum.

“I am honored to join Colonial Williamsburg as we approach the foundation’ centennial in 2026, which fittingly coincides with the 250th anniversary of our nation’s founding,” said Sonsini. “Colonial Williamsburg’s work is critical to fostering understanding of America’s complex story, and I share its renewed commitment to engage and inspire all who embrace freedom.”

Sonsini’s honors include the American Jewish Community’s 2015 Judge Learned Hand Award, the Silicon Valley Education Foundation’s 2012 Pioneer Business Leader Award, the National Conference for Community and Justice’s Community Service Award for Exemplary Leadership, and the National Italian American Foundation Special Achievement Award in Commerce and Law. He was named 2005 Business Leader of the Year by the Harvard Business School Association of Northern California, and “one of the most influential players in U.S. corporate governance” by Directorship magazine in both 2007 and 2010.

The other members of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation board are Kendrick F. Ashton, Jr., cofounder and managing partner of The St. James; Edward L. Ayers, president emeritus, University of Richmond; Frank Batten, Jr., chairman, Dominion Enterprises; Catharine O’Neill Broderick, former trustee, Rockefeller Brothers Fund; Mark A. Coblitz, senior vice president, retired, Comcast Corp.; Walter B. Edgar, distinguished professor of history emeritus University of South Carolina; Fleet; Neil Gorsuch, associate justice, U.S. Supreme Court; Conrad M. Hall, president and CEO, retired, Dominion Enterprises; Sheila Johnson, founder & CEO of Salamander Hotels & Resorts; Anthony M. Kennedy, associate justice, retired, U.S. Supreme Court; John A. Luke Jr., chairman, WestRock Company; Wally Martinez, managing partner of Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP; Leslie A. Miller, principal, Leslie A. Miller Esq., LLC; Steven L. Miller, chairman and president, SLM Discover Ventures, Inc.; Joseph W. Montgomery, managing director, the Optimal Service Group of Wells Fargo Advisors; Walter S. Robertson III, managing director of Lowe, Brockenbrough & Company; Gerald L. Shaheen, retired group president, Caterpillar, Inc.; Sheldon M. Stone, principal and portfolio manager, Oaktree Capital Management, L.P.; and Y. Ping Sun, university representative, Rice University.
The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia’s 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes more than 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers, lodging, culinary options from historic taverns to casual or elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 45 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones and his son Rees Jones, a full-service spa and fitness center, pools, retail stores and gardens. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg’s educational programs and preservation initiatives.

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