

# Denelle Dixon

CEO and Executive Director  
Stellar Development Foundation

Denelle Dixon is the CEO and Executive Director of the Stellar Development Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports the growth and development of Stellar, an open-source blockchain network that aims to “connect the global financial system.”

Prior to joining SDF in May 2019, Dixon was the Chief Operating Officer of Mozilla Corporation, first joining in 2012 as a leading member of the legal and business development teams. Thereafter, Denelle rose through the ranks, leading other parts of the organization as she focused on organizing Mozilla for its future. Before Mozilla, Denelle was primarily focused on legal and business work serving as Director of US Legal Strategy at private equity firm Terra Firma where she evaluated potential investment opportunities, worked with investors and created strategies for conflict resolution. And as Senior Legal Director at Yahoo!, where she worked with product leads to remove roadblocks on Yahoo!’s most prominent user facing products. In her early career Denelle served as a partner at leading litigation firm, Folger Levin and Kahn LLP where she led trials, created legal and business strategies for clients and pioneered foundational work in the privacy landscape shaping the future of the Web.

## Professional Experience



### **Mozilla**

2012 to 2019

Chief Operating Officer

Chief Business and Legal Officer

Senior Vice President, Business and Legal Affairs

terra firma

### **Terra Firma**

2010 to 2012

Director, US Legal Strategy



### **Yahoo!**

2007 to 2010

Senior Legal Director

Folger  
Levin

### **Folger Levin & Khan LLP**

1998 to 2007

Partner

## Background and Education

Born and raised in Gilroy, California, Dixon went on to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at University of California, Davis. Shortly after, she studied and received a Juris Doctor from the University of California's Hastings College of Law. After law school, she clerked at the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii.



### **UC Law San Francisco (formerly Hastings College of the Law)**

Doctor of Law (J.D.)



### **University of California, Davis**

BA, Political Science

## Expertise and Values

Dixon's work as a lawyer in both technology and private equity has given her a keen understanding of what it takes to build a business ground-up from a policy perspective. But it was her time at Mozilla where her immersion in the world of open-source led to two key insights.

The first being, she is emotionally and intellectually connected to the intersection between public policy, business, and technology, which she views as essential to building a vibrant, directed, and innovative economy. Denelle is energized by bringing together high-performing, diverse teams that leverage technology to build sustainable business models.

The second insight is that open source technology serves an important function in the future of the Web in general and of the payments infrastructure serving the financial side of the Web. It comes down to its core values – openness, transparency, collaboration and diversity. When activity and progress is documented, it allows the community to grow and develop while holding the technology and project owners accountable. The potential for growth, creativity, and innovation is limitless in open-source, especially when it comes to building networks. The combination of these two are what led Dixon to join SDF. SDF's strong vision – to unite the

global financial infrastructure – coupled with the fact that it focuses on supporting open-source technology and would allow Dixon to focus on the intersection of public policy, business, and technology convinced her that she would be in a position to push for change.

In addition to open source values, Dixon is also a vocal advocate for net neutrality, encryption, the disclosure of vulnerabilities by governments and greater user choice and control.

## Current Board and Advisory Positions

- Director, MoneyGram International
- Director, Tala
- Director, Airtm
- Director, Trust and Safety Professional Association
- Special Advisor, USF Institute for Nonviolence and Social Justice
- Trustee, UC Law San Francisco (formerly Hastings College of the Law)
- Advisor, Filecoin Foundation