



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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PANELS AND AGENDA SET FOR PUBLIC HEARING IN RICHMOND, VA. ON BROADCAST OWNERSHIP RULES

Washington, DC – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today announced the format, list of panelists and moderator for its previously announced field hearing on broadcast ownership rules to be held in Richmond, VA. The one-day field hearing is being held Thursday, February 27, 2003, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, at the Greater Richmond Convention Center.

The hearing will be organized into three panels, each of which will focus on one of the FCC's key policy goals of broadcast regulation – diversity, localism and competition. The panel members were selected with the goal of making the panels balanced and informative, and include representatives from consumer groups, industry and leading academic institutions. After each panel, there will be an opportunity for any member of the general public to make comments during “open microphone” sessions. A list of panelists is attached.

Thomas Krattenmaker will moderate the hearing. Mr. Krattenmaker is currently Senior Counsel in the Washington office of the law firm Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo PC, where he specializes in telecommunications transactions and antitrust issues. Before joining the firm, he was Director of Research in the FCC's Office of Plans and Policy under Chairman William Kennard. He has taught and written extensively on constitutional law, antitrust law and communications law, policy and regulation in positions at Georgetown University, the College of William and Mary, the University of Connecticut and the University of Natal in South Africa.

The FCC's review of broadcast ownership rules has generated one of the most exhaustive records in Commission history. The FCC has received more than 15,000 comments in this proceeding, the majority of which are from the general public.

The six broadcast ownership rules to be discussed at the hearing and the years they originally were adopted are:

1. Newspaper/Broadcast Cross-Ownership Prohibition (1975);
2. Local Radio Ownership (1941);
3. National TV Ownership (1941): remanded by D.C. Circuit;
4. Local TV Multiple Ownership, aka “Duopoly rule” (1964): remanded by D.C. Circuit;

5. Radio/TV Cross-Ownership Restriction (1970);
6. Dual Television Network Rule (1946).

The hearing is open to the public and seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. All interested persons are invited to attend.

A live audiocast of the hearing will be available, on a first-come, first-served basis, through the FCC's Web site at www.fcc.gov. In addition, the transcript will be available on the FCC Web site within 14 business days of the hearing. The transcript will be a part of the record in the broadcast ownership rulemaking proceeding.

Requests for reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities should be made by sending an e-mail to: fcc504@fcc.gov. Include a description of the accommodation you will need including as much detail as you can. Also include a way we can contact you if we need more information. Make your request as early as possible; please allow at least 5 days advance notice. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may be impossible to fill. Contact the following Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau staff: for sign language interpreters, CART, and other reasonable accommodations, contact Helen Chang, 202-418-0424 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY), hchang@fcc.gov; for accessible format materials (braille, large print, electronic files, and audio format) contact Brian Millin, 202-418-7426 (voice), 202-418-7365 (TTY), bmillin@fcc.gov.

Interested members of the public may also participate in this proceeding by filing comments electronically using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) and ECFS Express at www.fcc.gov.

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For further information, contact Amelia Brown, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, at (202) 418-1400.

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