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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).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FCC CHAIRMAN MICHAEL POWELL DESIGNATES SPECIAL COUNSEL TO SPEARHEAD INTERNAL FCC REFORM EFFORTS

Washington -- FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell today appointed Mary Beth Richards as Special Counsel to spearhead a comprehensive FCC reform project. Ms. Richards is currently FCC Deputy Managing Director.

Powell said, "I am committed to making the FCC more efficient, more decisive, and more responsive to the fast-moving changes in technology and telecommunications markets. Mary Beth's extensive experience at the FCC and her commitment to excellence in government make her the ideal choice." Richards will oversee the project on behalf of the Chairman's office, and will work closely with all of the bureaus and offices to ensure a smooth transition.

Richards has been a Deputy Managing Director since 1997. She has held various management and staff positions at the Commission including Deputy Chief of the Common Carrier Bureau, Special Counsel to the Commission for Reinventing Government, Chief of Enforcement in both the Common Carrier and former Field Operations Bureaus, Legal Advisor to the Chief of the Common Carrier Bureau and Staff Attorney in the Bureau's Tariff Division and in the Private Radio Bureau.

She earned a J.D. from the Catholic University of America and a B.A. from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She is the recipient of the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award, the Federal Communications Commission's Gold Medal Award and the Eugene C. Bowler Award.

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