



# NEWS

**Federal Communications Commission**  
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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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## **FCC ANNOUNCES PANELISTS FOR *EN BANC* HEARING ON BROADCAST AND CABLE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY RULES SET FOR MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2002, 10:00 A.M.**

Washington, DC -- The Federal Communications Commission today announced panelists appearing at the *en banc* hearing being held on Monday, June 24, 2002, to discuss issues and perspectives on the proceeding to promulgate new broadcast and cable equal employment opportunity (“EEO”) rules.

The *en banc* hearing will convene from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the headquarters of the Federal Communications Commission, 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. in the Commission Meeting Room (Room TW-C305).

The purpose of the *en banc* hearing is to assist the Commission in its examination of the EEO rules applicable to broadcast and cable entities. In January 2001, the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals vacated the rules as unconstitutional, finding them insufficiently tailored to address the Commission’s efforts to prohibit race and gender discrimination in broadcast and cable employment. The EEO rules reviewed by the court were adopted by the Commission in January 2000. Following the court’s decision, the Commission suspended enforcement of its EEO program outreach and dissemination rules. The broadcast and cable non-discrimination rules remain in effect.

The *en banc* hearing will focus on the issues raised in the rulemaking initiated on December 21, 2001 (FCC 01-363). The Commission will hear from executives and managers in the broadcasting and cable sectors, as well as leaders of public interest organizations. The *en banc* discussion will be twofold. First, panelists will address the scope of various EEO challenges such as obtaining vacancy and advancement information, obstacles to attracting and maintaining a diverse workforce, compliance paper work requirements, and outreach amidst limited financial as well as staffing resources. Second, panelists will discuss best practices and recommendations based upon their experience with effective programs, cost and staff sensitive proposals, and specific examples of both sound business and effective EEO outreach programs.

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Confirmed participants include:

Henry Rivera, former FCC Commissioner, Partner, Shook, Hardy & Bacon  
Ann Arnold, Executive Director, Texas State Broadcasters' Association  
Tom Baxter, AOL/Time Warner, President, Time Warner Cable  
Linda Berg, Political Director, National Organization of Women  
Rev. Robert Chase, Executive Director, Office of Communications, United Church of Christ  
Belva Davis, Special Projects Reporter, KQED-TV  
Joan E. Gerberding, President, American Women in Radio and Television  
Gregory Hessinger, National Executive Director, AFTRA  
Cathy L. Hughes, Founder and Chairperson, Radio One, Inc.  
Michael Jack, President and General Manager of NBC-Washington  
Marilyn Kushak, Vice President, Midwest Family Broadcasters  
Hugh Price, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Urban League  
Esther Renteria, Founder, Hispanic Americans for Fairness in Media  
Senator Art Torres (Ret.), President, Walter Kaitz Foundation  
Charles Warfield, President and COO, ICBC Broadcast Holdings, Inc  
Steve White, Senior Vice President, AT&T Broadband

The *en banc* is open to the public and seating will be available on a first come, first served basis. All interested persons are invited to attend. Internet users may listen to the real-time audio feed of the hearing via the Internet in Real Audio/Real Video format <http://www.fcc.gov/realaudio/>. In addition, the hearing will be interpreted for the hearing impaired.

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