



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).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FCC COMMISSIONER COPPS ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HEARING ON MEDIA CONCENTRATION IN DURHAM, NC, ON MARCH 31

Washington, DC – FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps today announced the agenda for the field hearing on media concentration to be held in Durham, NC. The forum is being held Monday, March 31, 2003, from 12:30 PM to 5:00 PM, at Duke Law School. U.S. Congressmen Richard Burr (R-NC) and David Price (D-NC) and FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein will participate along with Copps.

The hearing will be organized into three panels – “Localism and Community Standards,” “News,” and “Diversity.” After the panels, there will be an opportunity for members of the general public to make comments.

The purpose of the hearing is to give citizens outside of Washington, DC, an opportunity to voice their opinions about media concentration. The FCC has asked the public to offer comments on how the agency can develop protections that provide citizens with viewpoints from a diversity of sources and enhance the marketplace of ideas. Commissioner Copps stated, “This is the biggest decision the FCC will make this year, and it will affect your television, radio, newspapers, cable TV, and Internet news and entertainment for years to come. I hope everyone concerned will come make their voices heard.”

At issue is the FCC’s review of rules that seek to protect localism, competition, and diversity in the media. These rules, among other things, currently limit a single corporation from dominating local TV markets; from merging a community’s TV stations, radio stations, and newspaper; from merging two of the major TV networks; and from controlling more than 35% of all TV households in the nation.

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. The hearing will be held in Room 3043 with overflow space available in the Law School’s Blue Lounge. The proceedings will be webcast live at <http://www.law.duke.edu/webcast/>. 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.

FIELD HEARING AGENDA
Duke Law School
Room 3043

Monday, March 31, 2003

12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.** **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**
Michael J. Copps, Commissioner, FCC
Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner, FCC
Hon. Richard Burr, U.S. House of Representatives
Hon. David Price, U.S. House of Representatives
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.** **Panel Discussion: Localism and Community Standards**
Bill Brooks, President, North Carolina Family Policy Council
Jim Goodmon, President & CEO, Capitol Broadcasting Company
Hank Price, President & General Manager, WXII-TV
Michael Ward, President & General Manager, NBC-17 (WNCN)
- 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** **Panel Discussion: News**
Tom Howe, Director & General Manager, UNC-TV
Jim Heavner, President & Principal Owner, VilCom
Barry Faber, Vice President/General Counsel, Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.
- 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** **Panel Discussion: Diversity**
Gregory Davis, President and CEO, Davis Broadcasting, Inc.
Don Curtis, President/CEO, Curtis Media Group
Tift Merritt, Universal Music Group Recording Artist
Bill Willis, North Carolina Bluegrass Musician
- 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** **Public Comments**
- 5:00 p.m.** **Adjournment**