

Remarks of
Michael K. Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
At the
Continuing Legal Education Course:
Representing the Communications Client in the Era of Homeland Security
Federal Communications Commission Meeting Room
Washington, D.C.
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Good Evening. It is a great pleasure for me to be here tonight to introduce the opening sessions of this important continuing legal education course. I want to thank our colleagues at the Federal Communications Bar Association for cosponsoring this event with our Enforcement Bureau's Office of Homeland Security, and to offer special thanks to the distinguished group of panelists assembled here tonight.

This program combines two essential elements of the FCC's mission: professional training and our commitment to a secure and robust communications industry.

Since becoming Chairman, I have made the training of FCC staff a major priority. To that end, we initiated the FCC University, a virtual campus to foster learning and development throughout the agency. Since the initial year of FCC U, training has increased 344%. This past year alone, the FCC U has delivered 160 courses in-house, and funded 749 external courses for staff, the most recent of which is this CLE. It is a pleasure to be able to work with the FCBA to extend our commitment to professional training to the Communications Bar as a whole.

I can't think of a better way to advance our Homeland Security mission than to cosponsor this event, or a more appropriate and timely title than "Representing the Communications Client in the Era of Homeland Security."

As you may know, Homeland Security is one of the six goals outlined in the FCC's Strategic Plan, and, particularly since 9/11, has been one of the lynchpins of this agency's mission. Outreach and information sharing, such as this continuing legal education program, are critical to success in this area. One of the lessons that I hope comes from these panels is that security concerns, whether expressed by the CFIUS in an international transaction, or as set forth in industry Best Practices, are not antagonistic to an open market. Rather, they are vital to the market's continued health.

Over the next two Thursdays you will be hearing from senior FCC staff, industry executives, and top practitioners on a series of subjects that tie Homeland Security concerns to the regulatory and transactional aspects of the FCC's practice. These sessions are not intended to be a comprehensive treatment of Homeland Security issues as they relate to the communications industry. That would be worth many more than four CLE credits, and would require much more than two evenings. Rather, it is the start of a dialogue that we hope continues.

For these opening sessions, our Enforcement Bureau's Office of Homeland Security has worked with our International Bureau, Media Bureau and Office of Engineering and Technology to select four topics of current concern: U.S. government review of foreign ownership of U.S. infrastructure; the service priority programs of the National Communications System; the industry Best Practices adopted by the Network Reliability and Interoperability Council and the Media Security and Reliability Council; and the way industry is weaving those Best Practices into their risk assessment and abatement processes.

We believe that these sessions will provide communications practitioners with necessary information and specific tools to counsel their clients more effectively, and thus to enhance the viability of the industry. I am sure that you will find the presentations interesting and informative.

Thank you for joining us.

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