



# 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. Cir. 1974).

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## **STATEMENT OF FCC COMMISSIONER ADELSTEIN ON NEW YORK ATTORNEY GENERAL LAWSUIT AGAINST ENTERCOM**

In response to NYAG Elliot Spitzer's recently announced lawsuit against Entercom Communications Corp., Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein said,

**“The New York Attorney General investigation is piling evidence on top of evidence of the widespread abuse of the public trust. Given the voluminous documents pointing to major, systematic violations of FCC rules, the penalties should be commensurate with the crime. We can't let any violators get away with a slap on the wrist.”**

On August 8, 2005, the FCC launched its own investigation into music industry payola practices. [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-260446A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-260446A1.pdf). Commissioner Adelstein strongly encouraged this investigation. [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-260453A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-260453A1.pdf)

Commissioner Adelstein has challenged the entertainment industry to reform its practices, and he openly called for the American public to help the FCC in monitoring and enforcing the rules against airing undisclosed promotions, including VNRs and product placements ([http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-258962A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-258962A1.pdf)).

At the urging of Commissioner Adelstein, the Commission issued a unanimous Public Notice on Video News Releases and a fact sheet on payola. In the Notice, the FCC said the payola rules “are grounded in the principle that listeners and viewers are entitled to know who seeks to persuade them with the programming.” ([http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-84A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-84A1.doc)) (<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/PayolaRules.html>).