



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

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Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
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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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NEWS CONTACT:
Lauren Belvin at (202) 418-2663
Lauren.Belvin@fcc.gov

OCTOBER 28 WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON IMPROVING DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE CONTACTS

Washington, D.C. -- The Federal Communications Commission will hold a staff workshop on October 28, 2009 to explore possible revisions to the Commission's ex parte rules and processes to enhance the transparency of the Commission's actions while at the same time maximizing the exchange of information between the public and the Commission.

This workshop follows an internal study of the current ex parte rules by Commission staff which identified a number of areas in which the current rules might be improved or updated. The workshop will also explore new issues posed by the increasing use of Internet-based media of communication and expression, such as blogs.

The workshop participants consist of practicing attorneys as well as representatives of companies, trade associations, and public interest groups, all of whom have substantial experience with the ex parte rules. The panelists will provide their perspectives on the successes and shortcomings of the current rules and suggest alternatives to better balance the goals of fairness, openness, and efficiency. A moderating panel of senior FCC staff will direct the panel discussions and pose questions.

TIME: Wednesday, October 28, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

LOCATION: FCC Commission Meeting Room, 445 12th Street SW, Washington D.C. 20554.

ONLINE: A live Webcast of the workshop will be available at <http://www.fcc.gov/live/>.

MODERATING PANEL: **Austin Schlick**, FCC General Counsel
Joel Kaufman, FCC Associate General Counsel
MaryBeth Richards, Special Counsel to the Chairman for FCC Reform

PANELISTS: **Christopher Bjornson**, Co-Chair, Federal Communications Bar Association
Access to Government Committee
Diane Cornell, Vice President, Government Affairs, Inmarsat, Inc.
Jane Mago, Executive Vice President and General Counsel,
National Association of Broadcasters
Amy Mehlman, President, Mehlman Capitol Strategies
John Muleta, Chief Executive Officer, M2Z Networks, Inc.
Jef Pearlman, Staff Attorney, Public Knowledge
Andrew Jay Schwartzman, President and CEO, Media Access Project
David H. Solomon, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP

During the workshop audience members will have the opportunity to suggest questions in writing. Questions will be reviewed and, time permitting, may be asked by the moderators. Prior to the workshop, questions can be emailed to lauren.belvin@fcc.gov

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. The request should include a detailed description of the accommodation needed and contact information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible; last minute requests will be accepted, but may be impossible to fill. Send an email to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY).