



NEWS

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See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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RICK KAPLAN, FCC WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU CHIEF, TO STEP DOWN; RUTH MILKMAN TO RETURN AS BUREAU CHIEF

(Washington, D.C.) – Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski today announced that Rick Kaplan will step down as Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and that Ruth Milkman, currently Special Counsel to the Chairman for Innovation in Government, will succeed Mr. Kaplan as Bureau Chief. The change will be effective mid-June.

“For the past three years, Rick Kaplan has been critical in helping us navigate some of the most challenging, complex, and important initiatives at the agency – starting with the DTV transition to all things wireless to complex merger and acquisition reviews. As my Chief Counsel and then Chief of the Wireless Bureau, Rick worked tirelessly to develop sound policy and to unleash innovation, economic growth, and broad opportunity. Rick used all of his considerable skills – from his deep knowledge of the issues, to his strong strategic vision, and even a terrific sense of humor. We will miss his leadership at the agency.”

He continued, “We are so lucky that Ruth Milkman will succeed Rick. Ruth preceded Rick as Wireless Bureau Chief, taking on that role after years of extensive experience and major accomplishment inside and outside the FCC. Ruth has been a tremendous success at everything she has done, and we are fortunate that she will be taking the helm of the Wireless Bureau at a time of such enormous change and opportunity.”

Ms. Milkman returns to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau after serving for the past year as Special Counsel to the Chairman for Innovation in Government, where she led a team to develop proposals for procedural, regulatory and statutory changes to further innovation. As Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Ms. Milkman will continue her engagement in the implementation of incentive auctions. Gary Epstein will continue to lead the Commission’s Incentive Auction Task Force.

Bios

Rick Kaplan: Since joining the Commission in 2009, Mr. Kaplan has served in leadership roles throughout the agency, including as Bureau Chief, Chief Counsel to the Chairman, and Chief of Staff to Commissioner Mignon Clyburn. As Bureau Chief, Mr. Kaplan was responsible for executing the Chairman’s mobile agenda, working to free-up spectrum for mobile broadband, reduce unnecessary barriers to innovation and investment in mobile, encourage maximum spectrum efficiency, and protect competition. He also played a significant role in the agency’s implementation of Congress’s landmark legislation to open up access to advanced communications services for Americans with disabilities.

Mr. Kaplan helped lead the agency’s review of major transactions including Comcast/NBCU, AT&T/T-Mobile, AT&T/Qualcomm, DISH/DBSD & TerreStar, and most recently, Verizon Wireless’s agreement to purchase spectrum from SpectrumCo. and Cox.

As Chief Counsel, Mr. Kaplan managed the Commission's overall policy agenda, and was responsible for policy coordination among the Bureaus and Offices. During that time, Mr. Kaplan worked with Congress to encourage the passage of the groundbreaking incentive auction legislation, negotiated a resolution to the nearly decade-old TV white spaces proceeding, brought to decision rules requiring wireless carriers to offer data roaming on commercially reasonable terms, and helped navigate a shift in the retransmission consent marketplace.

Before joining the Commission, Mr. Kaplan practiced regulatory law and appellate litigation at Sidley Austin LLP, and served in the Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Kaplan began his legal career as a law clerk for Judge Harry T. Edwards of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Prior to his legal career, Mr. Kaplan founded and operated a sports management and public relations agency that represented and served professional athletes and sports-related organizations. Kaplan earned his Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School and his undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University.

Ruth Milkman: Ms. Milkman served as Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau from August 2009 to June 2011, and occupied various roles at the Commission between 1986 and 1998, including Deputy Chief of the International and Common Carrier Bureaus, and Senior Legal Advisor to Chairman Reed Hundt. She also was a founding partner of Lawler, Metzger, Milkman & Keeney, LLC, and served as law clerk to the Honorable J. Harvie Wilkinson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. She received her B.A. from Harvard University and her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School.

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