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| **Media Contact:**  Tina Pelkey, (202) 418-0536  tina.pelkey@fcc.gov  **For Immediate Release**  **CHAIRMAN PAI APPOINTS NIRALI PATEL AS SPECIAL COUNSEL**  WASHINGTON, January 18, 2018—Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai announced the appointment of Nirali Patel as Special Counsel. Ms. Patel joins the Office of the Chairman from the Office of Commissioner Brendan Carr, where she has been serving as a Legal Advisor since August 2017.  “I’m pleased that Nirali is joining my office as Special Counsel,” said Chairman Pai. “She has a wide range of expertise and experience in communications law and policy issues and will be an asset to my team.”  As a Legal Advisor to Commissioner Carr, Ms. Patel advised on media, wireless, public safety, international, consumer protection, and enforcement matters. Prior to that, she served as a Deputy Chief in the Competition Policy Division of the Wireline Competition Bureau. Before joining the Commission in January 2017, Ms. Patel was Counsel in the Technology, Media, and Telecommunications practice of Hogan Lovells US LLP. Previously, she practiced communications law at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP and Sidley Austin LLP. Ms. Patel graduated summa cum laude from the American University Washington College of Law and received her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.  ###  **Office of Chairman Ajit Pai: (202) 418-2000**  **Twitter: @AjitPaiFCC**  **www.fcc.gov/leadership/ajit-pai**  *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).* |