

**DISSENTING STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

Re: Applications of Golden Triangle Radio, Inc. and Cumulus Licensing Corp. For Consent to the Assignment of the Licenses of WKOR-FM, Columbus, MS, WMXU(FM) and WSSO(AM) Starkville, MS, and Application of Charisma Broadcasting Co. and Cumulus Licensing Corp. For Consent to the Assignment of the License of WKOR(AM) Starkville, MS, and Application of Bravo Communications, Inc. and Cumulus Licensing Corp. For Consent to the Assignment of the License of WSMS(FM), Artesia, MS, and Applications of Radio Columbus, Inc. and Cumulus Licensing Corp. For Consent to the Assignment of the Licenses of WJWF(AM) and WMBC(FM), Columbus, MS;

This Order denies a Petition for Reconsideration of an Order we released in 2002. I dissent to this Order for the same reasons I dissented to the underlying Order.

This transaction, along with four others decided at the same time, also highlights what had been an important part of the Commission's merger review process. When a merger or acquisition provided one corporation with 50 percent or two corporations with 70 percent of the revenue in a market, the Commission conducted an analysis of the impact in the specific market. After conducting this market-specific analysis, the Commission unanimously sent one of these five transactions to a hearing. The Commission, however, has now eliminated this additional analysis even for mergers that result in high levels of concentration. It is particularly ironic that the Commission took this step at a time when the courts have faulted the Commission for not adequately taking into account the structure of particular markets.