

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

Re: *Premio, Inc., File No. EB-06-IH-0853*

The E-Rate program is an essential part of our national effort to ensure that all Americans can benefit from the information superhighway in the Digital Age. This is particularly true for those living in economically disadvantaged areas who otherwise would be left on the wrong side of the Digital Divide were it not for the success of the E-Rate program. There are many dedicated people in the Schools and Libraries Division, at the FCC and Justice Department, and elsewhere who are deserving of our praise for bringing the Internet to our schools and libraries and for ensuring that waste, fraud and abuse are removed from the program. Premio, Inc.'s conviction and today's 1-year debarment from the program are further evidence of their efforts. While there were mitigating circumstances in this case, I believe that activities of the kind that the company engaged in may very well merit a longer debarment period given the importance of the E-Rate program and the severity of the company's actions. I therefore concur in this Order.

