

EDITOR'S NOTE

This third issue of Volume 49 of the *Federal Communications Law Journal* continues our examination of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 as well as timely, relevant material on a wide variety of communications issues.

In the first article, Ellen P. Goodman examines the controversy surrounding spectrum auctions in the context of digital television. In the second article, Carl B. Kress compares the Telecom Act with German legislation passed in 1996 aimed at liberalizing communications regulation. The Editorial Board would like to acknowledge two graduate students, Sabine Weissling-Senf and Metin Hakverdi, whose assistance was invaluable in editing the article. The third piece, an essay by Milton Mueller, argues that because the focal point of universal service is how persons will access and use the information infrastructure, universal service policy should focus on the relationship between the supplier and the end-user. This issue's treatment of the Act concludes with an index to articles about the Telecom Act.

This issue also includes an article by Douglas W. Vick and Linda Macpherson on the United Kingdom's Defamation Act of 1996. The authors' conclude that the Act fails to adequately reform English law because it fails to provide greater freedom of speech protection. Daniel O. Conkle provides a thoughtful review of George W. Pring's and Penelope Canan's recent book on SLAPPs--lawsuits filed against individuals or groups in response to political activities. Finally, this issue also includes Keith Conrad's note arguing for consideration of social and political issues when analyzing antitrust issues in media mergers, Matt Jackson's comment on the copyright implications of links between Internet web sites, and my note arguing that the procompetitive and decreased regulatory posture of modern telecommunications law serves as an excellent model for regulating electronic payment mechanisms.

As it nears the end of its tenure, the Editorial Board of Volume 49 wishes to recognize the efforts of the Federal Communications Bar Association's Editorial Advisory Board and particularly of its co-chairs Angela Campbell and Kurt Wimmer. We also wish to express our appreciation to our Faculty Advisor, Fred H. Cate, for his constant encouragement and guidance. Thanks are also extended to our superb staff; each issue represents immeasurable hours of effort from our dedicated editors. In particular, our Senior Managing Editor, Ted Burmeister, has gone far and above the call of duty to ensure the *Journal's* tradition of consistent quality. It is difficult to give credit enough to Ted and all of our other editors for the outstanding job they have done to make Volume 49 a success.

As always, we actively welcome your comments and submissions concerning any of the issues of interest to the communications bar. The *Journal* can be contacted at Indiana School of Law--Bloomington, 211 South Indiana Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana 47405; telephone (812) 855-5952; facsimile (812) 855-0555; and email <fcj@law.indiana.edu>.

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