

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the first issue of Volume 51 of the *Federal Communications Law Journal*. The continuing globalization of the telecommunications industry has heightened the need for prompt and effective international trade regulation. This issue focuses on the first multilateral agreement on trade in telecommunications services, the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Basic Telecommunications Services, which entered into force on February 5 of this year. In addition, this issue addresses topics ranging from taxation of Internet transactions to commercial speech in the European Union.

In the first Article, Taunya McLarty addresses the potential benefits of full implementation of the most recent commitments to liberalize trade in basic telecommunications services. Laura Sherman, with the unique perspective of an insider to the negotiations, follows with a description of the results of the negotiations on basic telecommunications, the history of the negotiations, the difficult issues that negotiators faced, and how those issues were resolved. In the final Article, Lawrence Spiwak offers a comprehensive survey of the FCC's international telecommunications policy initiatives from 1985 to the present.

Kathleen Wallman then provides her assessment of the state of the law since the passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. In her Note, Sandi Owen addresses the need for uniform laws governing sales and use tax on the Internet. Continuing with an international bent, Steven Rich's Note proposes that the United States adopt an approach similar to the European Court of Justice's, which provides greater protection for commercial speech.

The Editorial Board would like to thank all of the authors for their contributions. We are committed to providing our readers with broad coverage of pressing and important telecommunications issues, and we sincerely appreciate the continued support of contributors and readers alike. 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 University School of Law—Bloomington, 211 South Indiana Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana 47405; telephone (812) 855-5952; facsimile (812) 855-0555; and e-mail <fclj@law.indiana.edu>.

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