

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the first issue of Volume 53 of the *Federal Communications Law Journal*. Our staff has several exciting initiatives in store for the *Journal* this year—in print, on the Web, and at the Indiana University–Bloomington School of Law—and we look forward to involving you in these developments.

Last spring, as the *Journal* staff discussed plans for Volume 53, we invited each of the Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission to contribute written works to the *Journal* on topics of their choice and to visit the Law School to present oral remarks on the same or related topics. While these and any future Articles from the Commission—like all pieces published by the *Journal*—do not reflect the views of the Editorial Staff, the Federal Communications Bar Association, or the Law School, the *Journal* is pleased to provide a neutral forum for the important debate surrounding communications public policy issues. We are honored to present the first of these contributions in Issue 1—a series of pieces by Commissioner Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth and members of his staff.

In the first of these Articles, Helgi Walker discusses the need for the FCC to adopt a viewpoint-neutral approach in implementing its regulations. In the second Article, Rebecca Beynon reviews the FCC's implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In the final Article of the series, Bryan Tramont offers a critical perspective on the FCC's use of voluntary agreements in extracting concessions from licensees. We are grateful to Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth and his staff for their contributions, and we invite both readers and others to join the dialogue on these matters.

Two practitioners' Articles also relate to timely and relevant issues of telecommunications law and policy. In the first of these Articles, Yale Braunstein uses economic analysis to quantify the barriers to entry facing minority broadcasters. In the second Article, James Lister compares the costs and benefits associated with the decision to become a common carrier versus a non-regulated communications provider.

In the first of our student-written Notes, Emily Dawson advocates specialized universal funding subsidies for technological advancements that target high-cost areas to prevent a widening gap between services in high- and low-cost regions. In the second Note, Jennifer King suggests a congressional solution to the problem of federal, state, and tribal jurisdiction over telecommunications services on tribal lands. In the final Note, Philip Gutwein argues that the FCC should require parity in advertising between commercial advertisers and political candidates under the Communications Act's "reasonable access" clause.

This issue concludes with a review of Richard Power's *Tangled Web: Tales of Digital Crime From the Shadows of Cyberspace*. The book provides a unique view of computer crime through the eyes of an experienced cyber-security expert. Reviewer Jim Christy, a veteran Defense Department computer crime investigator, describes this work as "a must-read for all cyber cops, prosecutors, and information technology heads and policy-makers."

Frequent visitors to the *Journal's* web site surely have noticed our new design, dubbed the "Virtual Journal," created by Senior Notes and Comments Editor Amy Todhunter to make the *Journal's* content and resources more accessible to the more than 150,000 users who access the *Journal* annually via the Internet. Interested readers of Issue 1 will find comments by Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth, Richard Power, and Jim Christy on our web site following their panel discussion on cyber crime and security held in November at the Law School. Watch for new features to be added throughout the year.

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 timely and important communications issues, and we sincerely appreciate the continued support of contributors and readers alike. As always, we actively welcome your comments and submissions concerning any 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 [fcj@indiana.edu](mailto:fcj@indiana.edu).

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*Editor-in-Chief*