



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER  
**INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC REPRESENTATION**

Hope M. Babcock  
Angela J. Campbell  
David C. Vladeck  
Directors  
Eric D. Albert+\*  
James A. Bachtell  
Lisa Goldman  
Karen Henein+\*\*  
Richard McKewen  
Staff Attorneys

600 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Suite 312  
Washington, DC 20001-2075  
Telephone: 202-662-9535  
TDD: 202-662-9538  
Fax: 202-662-9634

April 2, 2004

**Via Electronic Filing**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: *Public Interest Obligations of Television Broadcast Licensees, MM Docket No. 99-360  
Children's Television Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters, MM Docket No.  
00-167  
Digital Carriage Rules, CS Docket No. 98-120  
Second Periodic Review of the Commission's Rules and Policies Affecting the  
Conversion to Digital Television, MB Docket No. 03-15  
Implementation of 1992 Cable Act with respect to Home Shopping Station Issues,  
Docket No. 93-8***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to section 1.1206 (b)(2) of the Commission's rules, we hereby submit this notice regarding an *ex parte* meeting in the above-referenced proceedings.

On Thursday, April 1, 2004 representatives of several public interest groups met with FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy and her Mass Media Legal Advisor, Stacy Robinson Fuller. Attending the meeting were Meredith McGehee, Executive Director of the Alliance for Better Campaigns; Michael Calabrese, Vice President of the New America Foundation; Harold Feld, Associate Director of Media Access Project; and James Bachtell and Cynthia Morikone with the Institute for Public Representation at Georgetown University Law Center.

The representatives discussed with the Commissioner and Ms. Fuller the need to implement public interest programming guidelines for digital broadcasters including local civic and electoral programming and children's programming. Because must-carry provisions are

intended to serve the public interest, the importance of defining broadcasters' public interest obligations prior to any decision on multicasting must-carry was also discussed.

Also discussed was the need for the Commission to take action on whether broadcasters that broadcast only program length commercials satisfy the public interest.

In accordance with the Commission's rules, this *ex parte* notice is being filed electronically in the above referenced dockets. If you have any questions regarding this filing, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 662-9535.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

James A. Bachtell

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Stacy Robinson Fuller  
Meredith McGehee  
Michael Calabrese  
Harold Feld  
Cynthia Morikone