Roy M. Neel
President & CEO

Roy Neel joined the United States Telephone Association (USTA) as President in January 1994, after serving the Clinton Administration during its first year.

As President and CEO, Mr. Neel is responsible for managing all of the association’s legal, regulatory, legislative, and technical activity to ensure that USTA serves its members as effectively and efficiently as possible. Mr. Neel also works closely with the USTA Board of Directors in defining the association’s goals and industry direction.

Prior to joining USTA, Neel served as the President’s Deputy Chief of Staff responsible for day-to-day management of the White House. Neel’s principal responsibility was the coordination of all policy, political and communications activities conducted by senior assistants and deputy assistants to the President.

Neel first moved to the White House to serve as Chief of Staff to Vice President Al Gore, charged with building and integrating the Office of The Vice President into the new administration. He was also Chief of Staff for the Vice Presidential campaign, managing a staff of one hundred communications, policy and scheduling aides. Additionally, during Gore’s sixteen year service in the United States Senate and House of Representatives, Neel was Legislative Director (1977-87) and Chief of Staff (1987-93). Neel’s responsibilities also included managing the Senator’s major involvement in all communications issues, encompassing cable, broadcasting and telephony. During 1988, Neel was policy advisor to Gore’s Presidential campaign and a member of the Democratic Platform Drafting Committee.

From 1970-77, Neel was a sportswriter (Nashville Banner), served as a special assistant to the Mayor of Nashville, owned and operated a small media and publishing business and a small management consulting firm, and served as state director for the National Endowment for the Humanities affiliate in Tennessee.

Neel served as a Navy journalist from 1966-70, with a one-year tour in Vietnam. He holds degrees from Vanderbilt University (B.A.) and Harvard (M.P.A.).

For more than 100 years, USTA has been representing the interests of the small, mid-size, and large companies of the nation’s local exchange carrier industry. The association represents more than 1,200 companies worldwide that provide local exchange, long distance, wireless, Internet, and cable services.
Lawrence E. Sarjeant
Vice President Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel

Lawrence E. Sarjeant is USTA’s Vice President Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel. Mr. Sarjeant has responsibility at USTA for all legal and regulatory matters affecting the Association and its member companies. He represents the Association before the Federal Communications Commission, other federal agencies, the courts, and industry forums.

Prior to joining USTA, Mr. Sarjeant was Vice President Federal Regulatory at U S WEST, directing U S WEST’s regulatory advocacy before the FCC and occasionally briefing administration and congressional staff on U S WEST regulatory positions. He supervised a professional staff of directors and executive directors. Mr. Sarjeant also served as Chief Counsel Federal Regulatory for U S WEST.

Mr. Sarjeant first joined the local exchange carrier industry in 1983 as an attorney with Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone Company in Seattle, WA. At Pacific Northwest Bell, Mr. Sarjeant provided client counseling and representation on labor, environmental, state regulatory and general business matters. Before joining Pacific Northwest Bell, Mr. Sarjeant was an Assistant Attorney for the State of Washington.

Mr. Sarjeant received his law degree in 1976 from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. He is a member of the District of Columbia Bar Association, the Washington State Bar Association, the Federal Communications Bar Association and the National Bar Association. He holds a B.A. from Brown University.

In its 100th year, USTA is the nation’s only forum for the small, mid-size and large companies of the local exchange carrier industry. USTA represents more than 1,200 companies worldwide.