COMMISSION RELEASES PRELIMINARY AGENDA FOR EN BANC HEARING ON PUBLIC INTEREST OBLIGATIONS OF TV BROADCAST LICENSEES

As announced on October 3, 2000, the Federal Communications Commission will hold an *en banc* hearing on Monday, October 16, 2000, examining the public interest obligations of television broadcasters. The hearing will commence at 9:00 a.m. at the Commission’s headquarters, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C.

The Commission hearing will consist of three panels: (1) serving children in a digital television world, (2) protecting children from the effects of sexually explicit or violent programming, and (3) using digital television to better serve local communities. A preliminary agenda, including expected panelists, is attached. FCC Commissioners will moderate and participate in the hearing.

The *en banc* hearing transcript will be included in the record that the Commission is developing as it considers the public interest obligations of broadcasters as they transition to digital television. All interested parties may submit written testimony or other material for the record until October 23, 2000. Once the record has been fully developed, the Commission will examine the steps it may take to ensure that television licensees continue to serve the needs of their communities and to address the needs of children in the digital television era.

The hearing is open to the public, and seating will be available on a first come, first served basis. At the end of each panel, we will provide the audience with an opportunity for a short question-and-answer period. All interested persons are invited to attend. Internet users may listen to the real-time audio feed of the hearing via the FCC’s Internet Audio Broadcast Home Page. Step-by-step instructions on how to listen to the audio broadcast, as well as information regarding the equipment and software needed, are available on the FCC’s Current Audio/Video Events Home Page. The URL address for this home page is [http://www.fcc.gov/realaudio/](http://www.fcc.gov/realaudio/).

A transcript of the hearing will be available ten (10) days after the event on the FCC’s Internet site. The URL address of the FCC’s Internet Home Page is [http://www.fcc.gov/](http://www.fcc.gov/). Transcripts may be obtained from the FCC’s duplicating contractor, International Transcription Service (ITS) at (202) 857-3800, or fax (202) 857-3805, or TTY (202) 293-8810. ITS may be reached by electronic mail: its inc@ix.netcom. ITS’s Internet address is [http://www.itsdocs.com](http://www.itsdocs.com). Audio and video tapes of the hearing may be purchased from InFocus, 341 Victory Drive, Herndon, VA, 20170, by calling InFocus at (703) 834-0100 or faxing InFocus at InFocus is (703) 834-1470, extension 2278.


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EN BANC HEARING ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST OBLIGATIONS OF
TV BROADCAST LICENSEES

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

October 16, 2000

9:00 – 9:30am Opening Statements from Chairman and Commissioners

9:30 – 10:45am PANEL I: SERVING CHILDREN IN A DIGITAL TELEVISION WORLD
James P. Steyer, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, JPKids
Anne Sweeney, President, Disney/ABC Cable Networks
Kathryn Montgomery, President and Co-Founder, Center for Media Education
Susan Altman, Producer, It’s Academic
Patricia Nugent, Senior Director of Children’s Programming, PBS

11:00 – 1:00pm PANEL II: PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM THE EFFECTS OF SEXUALLY EXPLICIT OR VIOLENT PROGRAMMING
Vicky Rideout, Vice President, Entertainment Media and Public Health, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
Nadine Strossen, President, American Civil Liberties Union
Robert Corn-Revere, Partner, Hogan & Hartson, L.L.P.
Dale Kunkel, Professor, Department of Communications, UC Santa Barbara
Joanne Cantor, Professor, Department of Communications Arts, University of Wisconsin at Madison
Henry Jenkins, Director of Comparative Media Studies, MIT
Robert Peters, President, Morality in Media, Inc.

1:00 – 2:00pm LUNCH

2:00 – 4:00pm PANEL III: USING DIGITAL TELEVISION TO BETTER SERVE LOCAL COMMUNITIES
Henry Geller, Director, Washington Center for Public Policy Research, Duke University
Paul La Camera, WCZB, Boston, Massachusetts
Jamin B. Raskin, Professor of Law and Co-Director of Program on Law and Government, American University
James F. Goodmon, President and Chief Executive Officer, Capitol Broadcasting Company
Paul Taylor, Founder and Director, Alliance for Better Campaigns
Sister Mary Parks, Secretary for Communications, Diocese of Altoona

During each panel, the panelists will provide 5 minute statements, followed by a discussion with the Chairman and the Commissioners. There will be a short question-and-answer period for the audience at the end of each panel.