

Richard D. Coit
Executive Director and General Counsel
South Dakota Telecommunications Association

Since 1993, Rich Coit has served as the South Dakota Telecommunications Association's general counsel and executive director, and was the organization's first full-time employee.

A North Dakota native, Rich is a graduate of North Dakota State University with a BA in political science and a minor in business. He earned his Jurist Doctorate from the University of South Dakota Law School in 1984 and spent two years in private practice in Wisconsin before accepting a position with the Attorney General's office in South Dakota. He also served as a staff attorney at the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission where he specialized in telecommunications. He then spent two years with DialNet, a South Dakota-based long distance company, before coming to his current position. He also serves as the administrator for the South Dakota Association of Telephone Cooperatives.

His primary responsibilities are representation of the SDTA membership before the state Public Utilities Commission, other state agencies, the state legislature and the Federal Communications Commission.

During his tenure at SDTA, the organization has grown from one full-time employee to three full-time and one part-time position, reflecting the complexity and dynamic nature of today's telecommunications industry.

Rich and his wife Nancy have two teenage children, Lindsey and Michael.