

8TH ANNUAL

TELECOM, CABLE AND WIRELESS CONFERENCE

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March 9-10, 2006

InterContinental Stephen F. Austin Hotel

Austin, Texas

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THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 9, 2006

Presiding Officer: Robin A. Casey, Austin

8:00 a.m. Registration Opens

Includes continental breakfast.

8:50 a.m. Welcoming Remarks

9:00 a.m. .50 hr

Recent Case Law Developments Under the Federal Telecommunications Act

A rewrite of the Federal Telecom Act may (or may not) be in the cards, but in the meantime, the courts continue to refine what the 1996 Act means. Discussion of recent court actions affecting VoIP, state and local regulatory authority, universal service and other topics.

Bill Magness, Austin

9:30 a.m. 1.00 hr

Technologies Underlying the "Triple Play"

The concept of the "Triple Play"—voice, broadband Internet access, and video services on one media—and increasingly even the "Quadruple Play," that adds wireless into the mix, is the subject of a lot of industry buzz. However, the multibillion dollar implementation of the complete play is just beginning. This session describes the providers—the telecoms, cable companies, wireless providers, and potentially power utilities—their respective technology approaches, and their strategies as the implementation race picks up steam.

Stanley L. Kroder, Ph.D, Irving
Robert A. Mercer, Ph.D, Boulder, CO

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. .50 hr

Federal Telecom and Cable Legislation

An overview of telecom and cable policy, law and politics in the 109th Congress.

Wallace Henderson, Austin

11:15 a.m. .50 hr

Senate Bill 5 Overview

Legislative reforms addressing a wide array of telecom, cable and broadband issues were the subject of intense debate during the 2005 legislative sessions. In the end, the Texas Legislature passed SB 5, which reduces regulatory burdens on incumbent LECs, authorizes the provision of broadband services over power lines, and establishes a state-issued franchise system for providers of cable and video services. Representative Phil King, House sponsor of SB 5, provides an overview of this controversial and ground-breaking legislation.

Rep. Phil King, Weatherford

11:45 a.m. .75 hr

SB 5—State-Issued Cable Franchises

Review of Texas legislation transitioning from traditional municipally-granted cable franchises to new state-issued cable and video franchises. Panel will discuss practical impacts, tie-in with developments at the federal level and in other states, application process and franchise administration, and legal challenges raised to the statutory change.

Moderator: Kathleen M. LaValle, Dallas
Timothy P. Leahy, Austin
Gary R. Matz, Stamford, CT
Clarence A. West, Austin

12:30 p.m. Pick Up Box Lunch

Included in registration.

12:50 p.m. Lunch Presentation

View from the PUC .50 hr

Commissioner Barry T. Smitherman, Austin
Public Utilities Commission of Texas

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Presiding Officer:
Dineen J. Majcher, Austin

1:45 p.m. 1.00 hr

Cable v. Telco: The Analysts' View of Winners, Losers and Alliances

Two leading analysts will discuss market developments as both cable and telcos battle it out for the consumer dollars in 2006. This discussion includes analysis and commentary on what is working and what is not, and how partnerships and alliances have the potential to impact the outcome.

Teresa Mastrangelo, Roanoke, VA
Ian Olgeirson, Monterey, CA

2:45 p.m. .75 hr

Broadband Over Powerlines (BPL): Technology, Law and Business

The electric industry joins cable and telco delivering competitive broadband service. A review of new federal and state rules and how BPL fits into the competitive landscape. Why BPL now?

Moderator: Andrew Kever, Austin
Monte Akers, Austin
Laura R. Doll, San Francisco, CA
Rina Y. Hartline, Austin

3:30 p.m. Break

3:45 p.m. 1.00 hr

Wi-Fi and Wi-Max: Legal and Policy Issues Surrounding Disruptive Technologies

Players in the telecommunications industry continually monitor new technologies that might challenge or change the prevailing regulatory framework. This session will review how two of the more prominent disruptive technologies are being deployed, and examine the legal and policy issues surrounding their deployment to assess whether these technologies will change the rules of the game.

Moderator: Liz Maxfield, Austin
George M. Foote, Washington D.C.
Stanley L. Kroder, Ph.D, Irving

4:45 p.m. .75 hr

Municipal Perspective on Telecom and Cable Issues

This session covers municipal views on right-of-way compensation currently paid to municipalities by telecommunications and cable providers and possible alternative compensation methodologies; municipal authority to collect right-of-way compensation from providers of "voice service;" the role of municipalities under state-issued cable franchises, particularly the continuation of public, educational, and governmental access channels and the role of municipalities in preventing discrimination among residential cable subscribers.

Moderator: Diane M. Barlow, Austin and Dallas
Hamid Khaleghipour, Addison
Don Knight, Dallas
Arturo G. Michel, Houston

5:30 p.m. Adjourn to Sponsored Reception

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 10, 2006

Presiding Officer: Rebecca Klein, Austin

9:00 a.m. .50 hr

PUC Implementation of 2005 Communications Legislation (SB 5)

Discussion of PUC cases, rulemakings, studies and reports resulting from changes to PURA enacted in the 79th Second-Called Special Session, effective September 7, 2005.

Michael G. Grable, Austin

9:30 a.m. .75 hr

Competitive Neutrality

The rapid convergence of technology and services in the communications industry has highlighted the need to examine the existing regulatory systems to ensure that industries and technologies are treated

equitably. Policymakers generally agree that governmental regulations and fee assessments should treat like services in a similar manner. However, the rapidly changing communications industry is making this a hard goal to meet. This panel will examine why "competitive neutrality" is important to achieving a healthy telecommunications market that spurs innovation and ultimately benefits consumers.

Moderator: Snapper Carr, Austin
Carl E. Erhart, Austin
Kathy Grant, Austin
Thomas Ratliff, Austin

10:15 a.m. .50 hr

How Will VoIP Be Regulated? FCC Rulings and Proceedings

This presentation will outline various options for categorizing VoIP services, the regulatory obligations and fees arising from such classifications, a status update on pending FCC proceedings, and thoughts on likely regulatory outcomes.

Lawrence "Larry" Strickling, Chicago, IL

10:45 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. .50 hr

Competition in Rural Areas

A discussion of the current status and potential for development of competition in rural areas of Texas.

José E. Camacho, Austin
Lawrence S. Smith, Austin

11:30 a.m. .75 hr

Universal Service—Still Needed After All These Years?

The Universal Service Fund (USF) is intended to ensure that basic local telephone service is provided in "high cost" areas at reasonable rates. Competitors argue that USF support to large ILECs is an outmoded, anti-competitive subsidy that should be reduced or eliminated. Others argue that it is a necessary and fair offset to the providers-of-last-report obligations imposed on incumbents. On this panel, two USF experts will provide updates on current state and federal Universal Service issues and give their perspective on whether continued USF support in competitive markets is in the public interest.

Ellen Blackler, Washington, D.C.
Joseph Gillan, Orlando, FL

12:15 p.m. Lunch on Your Own

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Presiding Officer: Donna Nelson Geiger, Austin

1:15 p.m. .50 hr

International VoIP—Lessons from Mexico

An overview of the current state of the law applicable to international VoIP, using a case study of the provision of VoIP termination to Mexico to highlight the legal challenges facing providers of international VoIP.

Jesús Sifuentes, Austin

1:45 p.m. .50 hr

E 911: New Technologies, New Possibilities, New Issues

Internet technologies such as VoIP present a host of new issues and possibilities of 911 emergency services: the session explores the pending regulatory issues.

Patrick Tyler, Austin

2:15 p.m. .75 hr ethics

What Every Lawyer Needs to Know about the New State Bar Grievance Procedures

A look at the new State Bar Grievance Procedures and suggestions how best to navigate them.

Xavier G. Medina, Austin
W. Wade Porter, Austin

3:00 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. 1.25 hrs ethics

The Successful and Ethical Practice of Law

The requirements of the State Bar Rules of Professional Conduct as they relate to the everyday issues faced by lawyers, and some basic concepts to follow.

William J. Chriss, Corpus Christi

4:30 p.m. Adjourn

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REGISTRATION FOR TC06

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- ☐ Early Registration Fee due by Wed. March 1, 2006..... \$495.00
☐ Registration Fee after Wed. March 1, 2006 \$545.00

STATE EMPLOYEE AND PUC RATE

- ☐ Early Registration Fee due by Wed. March 1, 2006..... \$250.00
☐ Registration Fee after Wed. March 1, 2006 \$300.00

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Allow 2-4 weeks from conference date for delivery.

- ☐ Course Binder WITHOUT Conference Registration \$200.00
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AUSTIN

March 9-10, 2006

CONFERENCE LOCATION



InterContinental Stephen F. Austin Hotel

701 Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701
512-457-8800

Special rate: \$179
(subject to availability)
good through February 16, 2006

Parking: Valet \$8 day
Self-parking lots nearby

KEY DATES

Registration & Cancellation

March 1, 2006–5 p.m.
last day for early registration
add \$50 for registrations
received after this time

March 3, 2006–5 p.m.
last day for full refund

March 6, 2006–5 p.m.
last day for partial refunds
\$50 processing fee applied

March 9, 2006–9 a.m.
conference begins

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