



THE FREE STATE FOUNDATION

A Free Market Think Tank for Maryland.....Because Ideas Matter

"Universal Service and Intercarrier Compensation: Will the FCC Finally Bite the Reform Bullet?"

National Press Club – First Amendment Lounge
Wednesday, July 13, 2011, 8:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

James Assey

Executive Vice President, National Cable & Telecommunications Association

James M. Assey, Jr. began his tenure as Executive Vice President for the National Cable & Telecommunications Association on February 1, 2008. As NCTA's second most senior executive, he is involved in all aspects of NCTA's work on behalf of the cable industry. Before joining NCTA, Mr. Assey was a longtime staff member on the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. Most recently, he was Senior Democratic Counsel to the Committee, and earlier was Senior Democratic Counsel on Communications and Media Issues for the Committee and Telecommunications Counsel. Mr. Assey is a graduate of Stanford University and Georgetown University Law School. He was awarded the Annenberg Fellowship to Eton College in England and has taught communications law as an adjunct faculty member of Georgetown University Law School.

Jerry Ellig
Senior Research Fellow, Mercatus Center

Jerry Ellig is a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, where he has worked since 1996. Between August 2001 and August 2003, Dr. Ellig served as deputy director and acting director of the Office of Policy Planning at the Federal Trade Commission. Dr. Ellig has also served as a senior economist for the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress and as an assistant professor of economics at George Mason University. He has published numerous articles on government regulation and business management in both scholarly and popular periodicals. He has co-authored/edited several books, including *Dynamic Competition and Public Policy* (Cambridge, 2001), *New Horizons in Natural Gas Deregulation* (Praeger, 1996), and *Municipal Entrepreneurship and Energy Policy* (Gordon & Breach, 1994). Dr. Ellig earned his Ph.D. and M.A. in economics from George Mason University and his B.A. in economics from Xavier University.

Randolph J. May
President, The Free State Foundation

Randolph J. May is President of The Free State Foundation, an independent, non-profit free market-oriented think tank. Before entering the think tank world, he practiced communications, administrative, and regulatory law as a partner at major national law firms. He served as Assistant General Counsel and Associate General Counsel at the Federal Communication Commission from 1978 to 1981. Mr. May has held numerous leadership positions in bar associations, including serving as Chair of the American Bar Association's Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice and a member of the ABA's House of Delegates. He is a member of the Administrative Conference of the United States. Mr. May has written regular columns for *Legal Times* and the *National Law Journal*. He has published more than one hundred twenty-five articles on communications, administrative, and constitutional law topics and is the editor or co-editor of three books on communications law and policy.

Mike Romano
Senior Vice President, NTCA

Michael Romano has been Senior Vice President of Policy of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association since August 2010. Mr. Romano oversees the Association's recently merged government affairs and legal and industry divisions, with a particular focus on NTCA's regulatory and industry efforts. Before joining NTCA, Mr. Romano was of counsel at Bingham McCutchen, LLP, where he advised telecom carriers regarding broadband stimulus and other federal broadband network funding opportunities, and negotiated agreements on a variety of issues. Prior to joining Bingham McCutchen, he served as Vice President and General Counsel of Global Telecom & Technology, was counsel in the intellectual property group at America Online, and held a number of positions in the legal department of Level 3 Communications. He began his legal career as an associate at Swidler Berlin, LLP. Mr. Romano earned a B.A. from Middlebury College and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. He is a member of the District of Columbia Bar.

Deborah Taylor Tate

Distinguished Adjunct Senior Fellow, Free State Foundation, and Former Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission

DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE is a Distinguished Adjunct Senior Fellow at The Free State Foundation. She served as a member of the Federal Communications Commission from January 2006 - January 2009. Among her many responsibilities at the FCC, Ms. Tate served as Chair of both the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service and the Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations. As a Commissioner, Ms. Tate also participated at the international level in bilateral and multilateral negotiations, the 2008 World Radio Conference and the recent International Telecommunication Union Council in Geneva, Switzerland. She is an ITU World Telecommunication and Information Society Laureate. Ms. Tate is an Assistant Professor at the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. Prior to being appointed to the FCC, Ms. Tate, served as a Chairman and Director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, overseeing state regulation of telecommunications, gas, electricity and water. She also formerly served as legal counsel and senior policy advisor to two Tennessee governors. Ms. Tate also served as a Director at Vanderbilt University's Institute on Public Policy.

Tom Tauke

Executive Vice President, Verizon

Thomas J. Tauke has been Verizon's Executive Vice President - Public Affairs, Policy and Communications since May 2004. He oversees media relations, employee communications, reputation management, philanthropy, corporate responsibility, and external relations. As the company's senior policy executive, Mr. Tauke is responsible for the development of Verizon's public policy positions and advocacy at the local, state, federal, and international levels. He serves as a member of Verizon's Leadership Council. Before joining Verizon's predecessor in 1991, Mr. Tauke was a member of Congress, representing Iowa's Second Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. During his congressional service from 1979 to 1991, he was a member of the Telecommunications Subcommittee. Mr. Tauke is a past chairman of the U.S. Telecom Association, where he is currently on the Board of Directors. He sits on the board of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where he chairs its Telecommunications and e-Commerce Committee. Mr. Tauke received a B.A. from Loras College and a J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law.