



November 25, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* disclosure pursuant to 47 CFR § 1.1206(b) in CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 03-109; MB Docket Nos. 09-182, 07-294, 14-50

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On November 24, the following individuals, representing the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Media and Telecommunications Task Force, conducted two meetings at the Commission: Corrine Yu, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Cheryl Leanza, United Church of Christ, OC Inc., Debbie Goldman, Communications Workers of America, Olivia Wein, National Consumer Law Center, and Todd O'Boyle, Common Cause.

In our meeting with Commissioner Rosenworcel and her aide Valery Galasso, we discussed Lifeline and E-rate. We thanked her for her support of expanding the E-rate program, given its importance to the constituencies the Leadership Conference represents. We expressed our support for expanding the Lifeline program to broadband—in particular for its role in closing the “homework gap”—and encouraged the Commission to move quickly to modernize Lifeline.

In our meeting with Kalpak Gude and Julissa Marengo of the Media Bureau, we addressed the Leadership Conference’s long-standing interest in promoting media diversity. We provided copies of our previous filings in the Quadrennial Review dockets,¹ and articulated several of our top issues of concern in these dockets:

- The Third Circuit has concluded that the Commission cannot make any changes to its media ownership rules without analyzing the changes’ impact on media diversity.
- The Commission cannot analyze the impact on media diversity without improving its 323 data collection and analysis. Specifically, the 323 data often includes significant shortcomings, such as a very high non-response rate for LPTV stations.² Further, the Commission has undertaken virtually no analysis with the 323 data it does have.
- The best way to improve media ownership diversity is with policy levers in the ownership process. We are particularly supportive of the Commission’s decision to attribute Joint Sales Agreements, which have led already to several sales to owners of color.

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- The Commission should move rapidly to ensure disclosure and attribution of shared services agreements, which not only reduce employment opportunities at local stations, but also harms the Commission's core goal of viewpoint diversity by permitting stations to jointly produce newscasts, among other services.
- We distinguished between full ownership which leads to the creation of wealth and less desirable ownership arrangements which produce revenue in the short-term, but do nothing to improve the historic challenges for communities of color in raising capital.

We encouraged Mr. Gude and Ms. Marengo to quickly outline a schedule of issues in this docket that they intend to prioritize, and to identify a full timeline that will bring this docket to timely completion in 18 months. We urged the Commission staff to make progress on these goals, even if they do not believe that the present Commission can fully address all media diversity goals within a short-term timeframe. We offered to schedule follow-up meetings to delve further into the details on several of these topics.

If Commission staff would like to follow up on any of the above issues or other issues of interest to The Leadership Conference, please contact Corrine Yu, Leadership Conference Managing Policy Director at 202-466-5670 or yu@civilrights.org, Gabriel Rottman at grottman@aclu.org or (202) 675-2325 or Cheryl Leanza at cleanza@alhmail.com or 202-904-2168.

Sincerely,

Cheryl A. Leanza
Policy Advisor, United Church of Christ, OC Inc.
Co-Chair, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights,
Media and Telecommunications Task Force

¹ These filings are available in ECFS as follows: 2014 Quadrennial Comments (filed 8/11/14) <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7521757748>; Media Ownership 2010 Quadrennial Diversity Letter (filed 3/24/14) <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7521095096>; Media Ownership 323 Data *ex parte* letter (filed 12/5/12) <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7022073817>; and Media Ownership 323 Data Comments (filed 12/26/12) <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7022092035>.

² After the meeting, Ms. Leanza provided a copy of UCC OC Inc. et al.'s 2014 Quadrennial Review Comments (filed 8/6/14) which list, at p. 17, 323 non-response rates for each broadcast service. This document is available in ECFS: <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/comment/view?id=6018253619>.