

Law Offices of Michael R. Gardner, P.C.
1150 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite #710
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 785-2828
Fax: (202) 785-1504
E-mail: MRGPC@aol.com

April 4, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Ex Parte Notice – MM Docket No. 02-277

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On April 3, 2003, the following leaders of the creative community and the advertising industry met with Ken Ferree and Paul Gallant to discuss the need for adoption of the 25% Independent Producer Rule to further the FCC's mandate to promote program diversity and competition in the narrow prime time television programming marketplace: Stephen J. Cannell, Chairman of Cannell Studios; Jon Mandel, Co-CEO & Chief Negotiating Officer, MediaCom; Tom Werner, Executive Producer & Founder, Carsey-Werner-Mandabach, LLC; Kathy Garmezy, Director, Government Affairs, Directors Guild of America; John McGuire, Senior Advisor, Screen Actors Guild; Kenneth Ziffren, Counsel, Coalition for Program Diversity; and Michael R. Gardner, Counsel, Coalition for Program Diversity.

Subjects discussed during this briefing included: the current status of the narrow prime time television programming marketplace; the advertising marketplace for prime time television programming; the 25% Independent Producer Rule proposed by the Coalition for Program Diversity; the judicial sustainability of the 25% Independent Producer Rule; and the public interest benefits from the Commission's adoption of the 25% Independent Producer Rule. The attached summary was used during this meeting.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) this letter and the attached presentation are being submitted for inclusion in the above referenced docket.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Gardner
Counsel for the Coalition for Program Diversity

Kenneth Ziffren
Counsel for the Coalition for Program Diversity

Attachment

cc: Ken Ferree, Chief, FCC Media Bureau
Paul Gallant, Special Advisor, Media Ownership Working Group