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DOW, LOHNES & ALBERTSON, PLLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ORIGINAL

M. ANNE SWANSON
DIRECT DIAL 202-776-2534
aswanson@dlalaw.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.
1200 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, N.W. · SUITE 800 · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-6802
TELEPHONE 202-776-2000 · FACSIMILE 202-776-2222

ONE RAVINIA DRIVE · SUITE 1600
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30346-2108
TELEPHONE 770-901-8800
FACSIMILE 770-901-8874

March 25, 2003

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MAR 25 2003

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

VIA HAND DELIVERY

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

Re: Notification of Ex Parte Communication
MB Docket Nos. 02-277, 01-235, 96-197, 01-317, and 00-244

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This is to advise you, in accordance with Section 1.1206 of the FCC's rules, that on March 24, 2003, George Mahoney, General Counsel and Secretary of Media General, Inc., John Feore of this office, and I met with Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy and her media legal advisor Stacy Robinson, to discuss Media General, Inc.'s concern over any FCC attempt to craft a single rule to address ownership of various types of media outlets; the deregulatory purpose of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; the disadvantageous effect of a single rule on convergence efforts in small to medium markets; the type of media that would have their ownership regulated under a single rule; the difficulties in attempting to measure diversity by "weighing" different voices; the equal protection problems and arbitrariness involved in utilizing a single rule; the effect of a single rule on television station owners that want to buy newspaper properties; the business uncertainties generated by a single rule that is likely to be vulnerable to attack on appeal; and Media General's motion to bifurcate and repeal the newspaper/broadcast cross-ownership rule that was filed on March 11, 2003.

As required by section 1.1206(b), two copies of this letter are being submitted for each of the above-referenced dockets.

Very truly yours,

M. Anne Swanson

cc by telecopy: The Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Stacy Robinson, Esquire

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