



1101 Connecticut Ave., NW, Ste. 330 · Washington, DC 20036
tel (202) 736-2200 · fax (202) 736-2222
www.campaignlegalcenter.org

Amy Wolverton
Associate Legal Counsel and
Media Program Director
awolverton@campaignlegalcenter.org

April 30, 2004

VIA Electronic Filing

Ex Parte Notice

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Digital Audio Broadcasting Systems and Their Impact on the Terrestrial Radio Broadcast Service, MM Docket No. 99-325, rel. Apr. 20, 2004; Public Interest Obligations of TV Broadcast Licensees, Notice of Inquiry, MM Docket No. 99-360; Second Periodic Review of the Commission's Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television, MB Docket No. 03-15 (see also MM Docket Nos. 00-167, 00-168).

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules, this letter is to provide notice of an *ex parte* meeting regarding the above-referenced proceedings. On April 29, 2004, Amy Wolverton, Associate Legal Counsel and Media Program Director of the Campaign Legal Center, met with Jonathan Cody, Legal Advisor to Chairman Michael K. Powell.

During this meeting, Ms. Wolverton reiterated her request that the Chairman issue a formal challenge to the broadcast and cable industries for increased coverage of campaign and election issues. In light of the pending 2004 elections, Ms. Wolverton emphasized that the Commission should not delay in issuing a challenge in an effort to stop the continual decline in the amount of broadcast coverage of campaign and election issues.

The parties generally discussed the new digital audio broadcasting rulemaking, and Ms. Wolverton indicated the Center's intent to file comments asking the Commission to apply political broadcasting rules to digital audio broadcasting. Similarly, Ms. Wolverton stressed the importance of maintaining candidate access and equal opportunity requirements in the digital television context. While expressing an understanding that digital broadcasters should be permitted some flexibility, Ms. Wolverton stated that such obligations should apply to both multicasting and datacasting.

Finally, Ms. Wolverton informed Mr. Cody that the CLC is beginning distribution of its *Campaign Media Guide* and provided copies of the guide to Mr. Cody. The *Guide* is designed to be a hands-on resource for all those involved in political broadcasting, including advertising and news coverage, during federal elections. She also informed him of the CLC's *Media Guide* Launch Event, slated for early June, in which CLC will promote the release of the *Guide*. (A copy of the guide is attached to this filing).

Pursuant to the Commission's Rules, this *ex parte* notice is being electronically filed through the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System procedures. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-736-2200 should you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

/s/

Amy R. Wolverton

Attachment

cc: Chairman Michael K. Powell
Jonathan Cody, Legal Advisor to Chairman Michael K. Powell