



December 24, 2013

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

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Communication, CG Docket No. 05-231

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 20, Jane Mago, Kelly Williams and the undersigned of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), along with several representatives from stakeholders in the above-captioned proceeding (see attached list) met with Aaron Garza, Eliot Greenwald, Greg Hlibok, Kris Monteith, Suzanne Rosen Singleton, Karen Peltz Strauss, and Caitlain Vogus of the Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau; Steven Broeckaert, Michelle Carey, Mary Beth Murphy, and Diana Sokolow of the Media Bureau; and Susan Aaron from the Office of the General Counsel. Chairman Wheeler, accompanied by his legal advisor Maria Kirby, made remarks at the beginning of the roundtable discussion.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss closed captioning quality on television,¹ including the use of best practices throughout the captioning distribution chain. Broadcasters continued to stress the importance of a flexible regime, that recognizes 1) one-size-fits-all regulations for a diverse industry will not optimize or improve the quality of captioning and 2) there are some errors and latency issues that cannot be avoided, due to human and transmission issues. Broadcasters continue to strive to make technological improvements to ensure the best quality of captioning for their audiences.

We also briefly discussed the use Electronic Newsroom Technique (ENT). Broadcasters share a common goal with the Commission and other stakeholders to improve access to news services or all Americans, including those with disabilities. The ability to continue to utilize ENT, particularly in medium and small markets is of critical concern to broadcasters, both in

¹ See Comments of the National Association of Broadcasters In the Matter of Closed Captioning of Video Programming, CG Docket No. 05-231, Nov. 10, 2005 at 10-15 (NAB Comments) ; See *also* Reply Comments of the National Association of Broadcasters, CG Docket No. 05-231, Dec. 16 2010 at 5-10.

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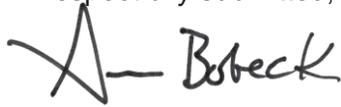
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terms of cost considerations, which are relatively fixed, regardless of market size, and the challenges associated with securing quality real-time captioners.² Rather than a phase out of the use of ENT, which could likely result in a loss of competitive local news coverage, as well as additional voices in the market, we again urged the Commission to work with industry to examine how ENT can be better utilized to ensure local viewers have improved access to important news and information.

We thank the Commission staff for their continued efforts to balance all interests to work towards practical solutions to increase caption availability and quality.

Please direct any questions regarding these matters to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann West Bobeck". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "A" and a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Ann West Bobeck
Senior VP and Deputy General Counsel
Legal and Regulatory Affairs

² See NAB Comments at 6-9; NAB Replies at 11-15; See also In the Matter of Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau Seeks to Refresh the Record on Notices of Proposed Rulemaking Regarding Closed Captioning Rules, CG Docket No. 05-231, ET Docket No. 99-254, Reply Comments of NAB, Dec. 9, 2010 at 2-6.

List of Participants

Via Teleconference

Nick Poser (CBS Corporation)
Bob Seidel (CBS Corporation)
Dave Wenhold (NCRA)
Blake Reid (Samuelson-Glushko Technology Law & Policy Clinic)
Larry Goldberg (WGBH)
Amy Bowlen (VITAC)
Alison Godburn (WGBH)
Quang Pho (WGBH)
Gerald Freda (CaptionMax)
Leonardo Velazquez (AT&T)
Debra Phillips (AT&T)
Stephen Goldberg (AT&T)
Mark Weiland (AT&T)
Robert Vitanza (AT&T)

In Person:

John Ward (DirecTV)
Stacy Fuller (DirecTV)
Mark Turits (CBS Corporation)
Anne Lucey (CBS Corporation)
Hadass Kogan (DISH Network)
Rick Chessen (NCTA)
Jill Lockett (NCTA)
Diane Burstein (NCTA)
Mary Crespy (Verizon)
Will Johnson (Verizon)
Margaret Tobey (NBCU)
Brandon Schall (NCRA)
Adam Finkel (NCRA)
Jane Mago (NAB)
Kelly Williams (NAB)
Ann Bobeck (NAB)
Claude Stout (TDI)
Christian Vogler (Gallaudet, TAP)
Andrew Phillips (National Association of the Deaf)
Cheryl Heppner (Association of Late-Deafened Adults)
Lise Hamlin (HLAA)

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Darlene Parker (NCI)
Jill Toschi (NCI)
Drake Smith (NCI)
Heather York (VITAC)
David Talbott (AT&T)