

# Introduction: Telecommunications Regulation in an Era of Convergence - DePaul Law Review Fifth Annual Symposium

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## INTRODUCTION

The rapid pace of change in the telephone, cable, and broadcast industries raises new questions and concerns about the efficacy of present regulations in shaping a national telecommunications policy and in fostering development of the multimedia landscape. Prompted by the increasing convergence of telecommunications technologies, we invited a select group of esteemed scholars, distinguished government officials, and prominent industry leaders to share with us their insight, wisdom, and experiences in this dynamic area.

On March 1, 1996 the *DePaul Review* proudly presented its Fifth Annual Symposium. The Symposium, entitled *Telecommunications Regulation in an Era of Convergence*, addressed the role of regulation in shaping the future telecommunications infrastructure and the corresponding need for balancing various interests as the nation moves toward a multimedia environment. Several weeks before the Symposium, President Clinton signed into law the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This landmark legislation represents the most comprehensive overhaul of the nation's telecommunications laws in more than half a century. In light of this development, our panelists seized the opportunity to fashion their remarks to include discussion and analysis of the newly enacted legislation. We are pleased to have hosted this timely gathering and are proud of the quality of scholarship it generated.

The *DePaul Law Review* is honored to publish all six Symposium panelists: Andrew C. Barrett, Roy M. Neel, Daniel L. Brenner, Fred H. Cate, Allen S. Hammond, IV, and John D. Podesta. We hope that the thoughtful contributions contained in the pages that follow, which illuminate important legal and policy issues facing regulators and the courts, will assist them as they analyze and implement the new telecommunications legislation.

In closing, the *DePaul Law Review* extends its appreciation to all the people who participated in making the Symposium a success. Special thanks to Ken Kraus, and Professors Michael Jacobs and Brian Havel for their assistance in planning and executing the conference.

Thomas R. Stanton  
Symposium Editor

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