

August 4, 2008

FCC Releases Updated Version of “The Public and Broadcasting”

by Richard R. Zaragoza, Paul A. Cicelski and Christine Reilly

In July 2008, the FCC released the latest edition of “The Public and Broadcasting” manual, its second update in three months

On January 24, 2008, the Commission released its Report on Broadcast Localism which discussed, among other items, the Commission’s policy goals for creating a more responsive relationship between broadcasters and their local communities. In that Report, the Commission stated that there “was a substantial need for greater public understanding of broadcaster obligations, including serving the needs of the local community.” In its campaign to increase public awareness, the Commission proposed to update its own publication, “The Public and Broadcasting”, which is “designed to assist audiences in scrutinizing local stations’ localism performance....” In response to that proposal, the Media Bureau released a revised edition of “The Public and Broadcasting” manual in April 2008.

In July 2008, the FCC further revised the Manual to address issues with regard to the Digital TV Transition.

In accordance with the Commission’s commercial and non-commercial station public inspection file rules, Sections 73.3526(e)(8) and 73.3527(e)(7) respectively, applicants for new stations, permittees, and licensees must maintain a copy of the current version of “The Public and Broadcasting” manual in their station’s public inspection file and must provide a copy of the manual to members of the public at no charge. Accordingly, the April edition of the manual should be replaced by the July edition.

A copy of the manual can be downloaded from the Commission’s website at the following web address:

http://www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/decdoc/public_and_broadcasting.pdf

For a copy of the Manual or further information, please contact:

Richard R. Zaragoza
Washington, DC
+1.202.663.8266

richard.zaragoza@pillsburylaw.com

Paul A. Cicelski
Washington, DC
+1.202.663.8413

paul.cicelski@pillsburylaw.com

Christine Reilly
Washington, DC
+1.202.663.8245

christine.reilly@pillsburylaw.com

This publication is issued periodically to keep Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP clients and other interested parties informed of current legal developments that may affect or otherwise be of interest to them. The comments contained herein do not constitute legal opinion and should not be regarded as a substitute for legal advice.
© 2008 Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP. All Rights Reserved.