

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY & THE LAW SEMINAR: Course Description
(Law 614-001, Fall 2005)

Clay T. Whitehead
GMU Distinguished Visiting Professor of Communications Policy
ctwhite@gmu.edu

Lisa Sockett
GMU Law Adjunct Professor
lsockett@aol.com

Course Description: This seminar will examine some of the most important events in which changes in technology, economics, public opinion, and politics have produced major changes in communications policy and how that has impacted the industry and services available to consumers. The focus will be on the major policy changes that have brought us to the present and what that means for the policy-making process and for current policy issues such as the FCC's proposed transition to digital TV, intellectual property protection, and pending legislative proposals for changing the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to better promote competition in electronic services.

Distinguished Guest Lectures: The class format will consist of a presentation by the professors and/or a distinguished guest lecturer who has played a significant role in the development of communications policy, followed by class discussion. Guest lecturers are expected to include **Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia**; **Richard Wiley**, attorney and former FCC Chairman; **Donald Baker**, attorney and former Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust at the Department of Justice; **Dale Hatfield**, Professor of Telecommunications at the University of Colorado and former head of the FCC Office of Plans & Policy; **Henry Geller**, attorney and former General Counsel of the FCC and Director, NTIA; **Henry Goldberg**, attorney and former General Counsel, Office of Telecommunications Policy; **Gregory Sidak**, attorney, AEI Scholar and Professor at Georgetown Law School; **Brian Lamb**, founder and President of C-SPAN; and **Brian Thompson**, Chairman of Comsat International and former CEO of several competitive telecommunications companies.

Research Paper and Oral Presentations: This course will be a research and discussion seminar that will provide students an opportunity to explore in an in-depth manner the intersection of communications policy, regulation and the law. A research paper and in-class oral presentation is required in lieu of a written examination.