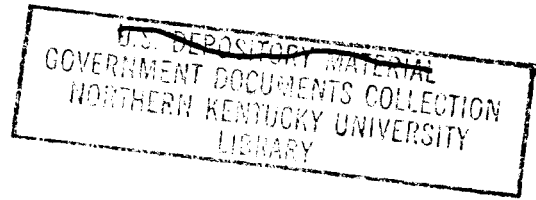


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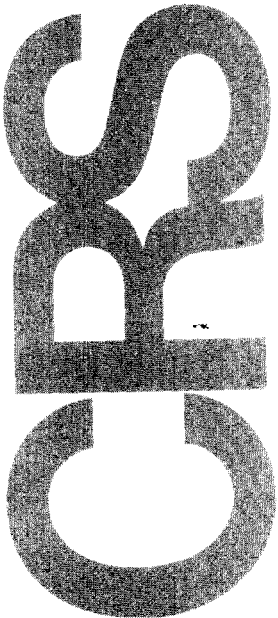
A GLOSSARY OF SELECTED TELECOMMUNICATIONS TERMS

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ABSTRACT

The following glossary provides short definitions and descriptions of selected telecommunications terminology, agencies, and organizations, as well as a listing of key laws and Federal Communications Commission regulations and decisions.

PREFACE

This glossary has been prepared to assist the lay person to obtain a working knowledge in the telecommunications field. It is not an exhaustive listing of telecommunications terminology, but rather is intended as an aid to provide a short definition of the more common economic, technical, and regulatory terms found in the broadcast, cable, and telecommunications common carrier fields. A listing of key laws and Federal Communications Commission regulations and decisions as well as selected agencies and organizations active in telecommunications is also included.

Jane Bortnick, Specialist in Information Science and Technology, Science Policy Research Division; Angele Gilroy, Specialist in Industrial Organization, Economics Division; and David Siddall, Legislative Attorney, American Law Division; were responsible for the selection and definition of these terms. Mark Jickling, Research Assistant, Economics Division; and David Anapolle, Student Intern, Science Policy Research Division; provided invaluable assistance.

A wide variety of telecommunications dictionaries, glossaries, and textbooks were used as reference aids in the compilation of these definitions.

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I. DEFINITIONS

A

ACCESS CHARGE: a charge to cover local exchange costs directly associated with the origination and termination of interexchange services. For example, these costs could be recovered through a fee to be levied directly on subscribers (see *customer access line charge) and/or on *interexchange carriers. (See Access Charge Decision in Section II.)

ALLOCATION (of the *radio frequency spectrum): the designation of particular parts of the *radio frequency spectrum for specific types of service or services. For example, 535 to 1605 kilohertz (see *hertz) is allocated to the broadcasting service where it is used for *amplitude modulation (AM) radio.

ALLOTMENTS: the table of allotments shows which *FM and TV broadcasting channels can be used in each city.

AMPLITUDE MODULATION (AM) RADIO: audio transmission utilizing *frequencies from 535 to 1605 kilohertz. (See *hertz.)

AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH 1956 CONSENT DECREE: a judicial settlement ending the Federal Government's 1949 antitrust suit against AT&T and Western Electric. Among the provisions was a restriction that the *Bell System engage only in the manufacture of equipment and the provision of services related to regulated *common carrier telecommunications services and those services incidental to the provision of such service.

AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH 1982 CONSENT DECREE: (also called modification of final judgment--MFJ) a judicial settlement ending the Federal Government's 1974 antitrust suit against AT&T, Bell Labs, and Western Electric. Among the provisions agreed to were the divestiture of the local *exchange service and access functions of the 22 *Bell operating companies as well as the modification of the *AT&T 1956 Consent Decree so that the remaining *Bell System may enter into unregulated markets (e.g. *data processing). (See section II.)

ANALOG DATA: information represented in the form of continuously variable elements. The normal mode of transmitting telephone or voice signals has been analog, although increasingly digital encoding is taking place.

ASCERTAINMENT: the *Federal Communications Commission policy which requires broadcast stations to determine the needs of communities served and provide programming to address those needs.

ASSIGNMENT (of a radio frequency): the authorization or licensing of a particular station to use a specific frequency (or channel) under specified conditions.

ATTENUATION: the loss in signal power between transmission and reception points.

AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING (ADP): The processing of information by computers.

* An asterisk preceding a term indicates that the term is defined elsewhere in the glossary.

B

BANDWIDTH: the *frequency width used by a communication's *signal. Bandwidths are specified in *hertz.

BASIC CABLE SERVICE: the package of *cable television programming made available to all subscribers for the minimum monthly fee. (See *pay cable.)

BASIC TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICE: the *Federal Communications Commission definition of *common carrier transmission services which result only in the movement of information and do not involve the manipulation, restructuring, or storing of such information. (See *enhanced telecommunications services.)

BELL OPERATING COMPANIES (BOC's): the predivestiture 22 wholly-owned telephone companies which were part of the *Bell System providing local and intrastate telephone service. Under the terms of the *American Telephone and Telegraph 1982 Consent Decree these 22 companies and their *exchange service and *exchange access functions were divested from the *Bell System and reorganized into 7 regional holding companies (Ameritech, Bell Atlantic, Bell South, NYNEX, Pacific Telesis, Southwestern Bell Corp., and U.S. West.) The seven regional holding companies each own a one-seventh interest in a Central Services Organization (CSO). The organizations' major functions are the furnishing of technical assistance and serving as a central contact point for national security, emergency preparedness, and natural disasters. The divestiture took place January 1, 1984.

BELL SYSTEM: the pre-divestiture structural organization of American Telephone and Telegraph Company and its subsidiaries. The *AT&T 1982 Consent Decree called for divestiture of the exchange service and access functions, the yellow page directory, and the *cellular mobile radio parts of the Bell System.

BIT: a unit of information. The word itself is a contraction of the words binary digit. Information in digital computers is represented in binary form (0, 1). A bit refers to each binary sequence.

BROADCASTING SATELLITE SERVICE (BSS): a radiocommunications service in which *signals transmitted or retransmitted by space stations are intended for direct reception by the general public. This service may include sound transmissions and television transmission, and in the United States generally refers to *direct broadcast satellite service.

BROADCASTS: over-the-air transmissions conveying programs intended to be received by the general public (in contrast to transmissions intended only for specific addressees, such as point-to-point *common carrier transmissions).

BUNDLED RATES: rates in which the various rate elements which comprise the service are consolidated thereby making them indistinguishable. (See *unbundled rates.)

BYTE: a unit of computer memory typically consisting of eight *bits and equalling enough information to describe one letter, number, or character.

C

CABLECASTS: transmissions conveying programs intended to be received only by cable subscribers and which are contained solely within the cable (in contrast to over-the-air *broadcasts).

CABLE FEES: a yearly charge paid by the *cable franchise operator to the local government which represents the franchised area of operation. The amount is usually a percentage of the *cable television operator's yearly gross revenues and is agreed upon by the cable operator and the local community, but subject to standards established by the *Federal Communications Commission, 47 C.F.R. §76.31.

CABLE FRANCHISE: an agreement by which a local government unit contracts with a *cable television company for the right to provide cable services to the community.

CABLE PENETRATION: the number of homes in an area which have opted to be equipped to receive *cable television as a percentage of all households with television.

CABLE POLE ATTACHMENT: the attachment of, or the laying of *coaxial cable to utility poles or rights-of-way owned or controlled by utility companies to enable the provision of *cable television service. The cable television company pays a charge for this access, and in the absence of State regulation, the *Federal Communications Commission regulates pole attachment rates, terms and conditions, 47 U.S.C. §224.

CABLE RATES: payments made by cable television subscribers to the cable company for the provision of *cable television service.

CABLE SUPERSTATION: a television broadcast station whose *signal is retransmitted to *cable television systems via *satellite.

CABLE TELEVISION: a system that delivers multiple channels of video programming to subscribers through a *coaxial cable. Cable providers are locally franchised, but are also regulated on the Federal level and may be regulated on the State level as well.

CANDIDATE ACCESS STATUTE: see section II.

CARRIER'S CARRIER: in *telecommunications, a provider of telecommunications services to other carriers, who then provide services to customers.

CATHODE RAY TUBE (CRT): an electron-beam tube such as the picture tube in a television receiver.

C-BAND: the name for the 4-6 GHz (see *hertz) frequency bands that are used for *satellite communications and are shared with common carrier terrestrial microwave systems.

CELLULAR MOBILE RADIO: a form of portable telephone service which allows mobile radio telephones to both initiate and receive calls with private line quality. A metropolitan area is divided into "cells" each served by a low power radio.

CENTREX CENTRAL OFFICE SERVICE (CENTREX CO): a state tariffed telephone service principally offered to large users (e.g. Government agencies and large organizations) which provides services similar to those of a *private automatic branch exchange (e.g. intercom, and conference calling), but which requires a separate loop from the central office switch to each of the subscriber's stations.

CIRCUIT: a two-way communications path.

COAXIAL CABLE: a cable composed of an inner wire conductor surrounded by a hollow cylindrical conductor with layers of insulation between them. *Signals travel between the inner wire and the outer cylinder and do not radiate outside the cable.

COMMON CARRIER (COMMUNICATIONS): in *telecommunications, a supplier that provides communications services for hire to the public, subject to State and *Federal Communications Commission regulation.

COMMON CONTROL SWITCHING ARRANGEMENT (CCSA): a service offered by *established common carriers which provides subscribers with an intercity *private line switching network. CCSA service is provided for the exclusive use of the customer and its authorized users.

COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE: a relay station that receives video, audio, data and other transmissions from *uplinks and retransmits them to *downlinks.

COMMUNITY ANTENNA TELEVISION (CATV): the original name for *cable television when service consisted primarily of transmitting over-the-air *broadcast signals in areas of poor reception.

COMPARATIVE RENEWAL: the process by which the *Federal Communications Commission considers the qualifications of an applicant wishing to renew a broadcast license relative to the qualifications of competing applicants.

COMPUTER HARDWARE: the mechanical, magnetic, electrical and electronic devices or components of a computer.

COMPUTER SOFTWARE: the sequence of instructions needed to guide the operations of a computer.

CROSS SUBSIDIZATION: the use of revenues or facilities of one product or service to allay the costs of another product or service.

CUSTOMER ACCESS LINE CHARGE (CALC): a *FCC proposed charge to be levied on all telephone subscribers to cover certain interstate *non-traffic sensitive costs previously not included in local service rates incurred by the local *established carrier for connecting a subscriber to the local central office. (See Access Charge Decision in Section II.)

CUSTOMER PREMISES EQUIPMENT (CPE): equipment located on a customer's premises which is connected to telephone company facilities to terminate or adapt that facility for customer use (e.g. a word processor or telephone receiver).

D

DATA PROCESSING: mechanical or electrical handling of data; sorting, collating, performing mathematical steps, storing, erasing, or printing.

DECODER: a device used to unscramble purposely scrambled television signals so that a proper picture is displayed on a television set.

DIGITAL DATA: information represented by a code consisting of a sequence of discrete elements.

DIGITAL TERMINATION SYSTEM (DTS): a *microwave local distribution system providing two-way transmission of high speed *digital *electronic message systems.

DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITE (DBS): a high power *satellite in the *broadcasting satellite service which transmits programming directly to community receivers or to individual home receivers thereby eliminating the need to relay the program over cable or broadcast stations.

DISTANT SIGNAL: a broadcast *signal generally originating too far away to be directly received over-the-air in the community of concern. Cable companies may relay such a signal into their service area for carriage on one of their cable channels.

DISTANT SIGNAL RULE: see section II.

DIVISION OF REVENUES: the predivestiture process by which revenues from interstate telephone service are shared among the *Bell System Companies involved in the provision of that service. (See *settlements.)

DOMESTIC SATELLITE CARRIER: a carrier which provides intercity communications services within the United States via a domestic *communications satellite.

DOMSAT: a domestic (U.S.) *communications satellite.

DOWNLINK: a unidirectional transmission path from a *communications satellite to an *Earth station. (Opposite of *uplink.)

E

EARTH STATION: an antenna, often saucer shaped, electronically equipped either to receive *signals from *satellites, to transmit signals back, or to do both. Television Receiver Only (TVRO) satellite dishes, which only receive signals, are used commonly by cable companies, and increasingly by individual homeowners.

ELECTRONIC MESSAGE SYSTEM (EMS): also referred to as electronic message service, any computer-based message system, such as electronic mail or electronic funds transfer.

ENHANCED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES: the *Federal Communication Commission definition of *common carrier transmission services which involve the manipulation, or alteration of *basic telecommunications service offerings (e.g., *data processing services).

EQUAL TIME: see section II.

EQUIPMENT REGISTRATION PROGRAM: a *Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program initiated in 1977 which permits the connection of any supplier's terminal equipment directly to the *telecommunications network once it has been registered and meets FCC technical standards, set out at 47 C.F.R. §68.

ESTABLISHED CARRIERS: the *common carrier firms which provide the Nation's *telecommunications transmission services under regulation, AT&T Communications the *Bell Operating Companies, and the *Independent telephone companies.

EXCHANGE ACCESS: the connection of *interexchange carriers to the *exchange carriers' local *telecommunications network.

EXCHANGE CARRIER: a provider of *telecommunications *exchange service.

EXCHANGE NETWORK FACILITIES FOR INTERSTATE ACCESS (ENFIA) AGREEMENTS: *Federal Communications Commission approved contractually negotiated agreements between the *established carriers and *other common carriers (e.g., MCI) in which the other common carrier agrees to pay an approved *access charge to the established carrier to obtain access to the local network for the provision of end-to-end service.

EXCHANGE SERVICE: telephone service within a geographic area established by a regulated body which provides customers with the ability to originate calls within that local area, receive incoming calls, and obtain access to the *message toll network. Under the *AT&T 1982 Consent Decree service provided by a divested *Bell operating company which remains within a *local access and transport area.

F

FACSIMILE: a system that transmits original documents, including graphic representations, electronically to distant locations using a *telecommunications network. The document is scanned at the transmitter, reconstructed at the receiving station, and duplicated on some form of paper. *Digital facsimile machines are faster than their *analog counterparts.

FAIRNESS DOCTRINE: see section II.

FIBER OPTICS: the technology for transmitting light in thin glass fibers. It can be used to carry relatively large amounts of information long distances.

FINANCIAL INTEREST RULE: see section II.

FIXED SATELLITE SERVICE (FSS): a radiocommunication service between fixed *Earth stations at specified points when one or more *satellites are used; generally refers to *communications satellite service.

FOOTPRINT: the area on the Earth's surface upon which a particular *satellite's signal can be received.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE SERVICES (FX): a type of telephone service whereby a subscriber for a fee can receive *exchange type service in an exchange other than the one in which that subscriber is located.

FREQUENCY: a measure of the number of electromagnetic waves that pass a given point in a given time period. Frequency is equal to the speed of light divided by wavelength and is expressed in cycles per second or *hertz. A short wavelength is equivalent to a high frequency.

FREQUENCY ALLOCATION TABLE (NATIONAL): a table developed jointly by the *Federal Communications Commission and the *National Telecommunications and Information Administration which sets forth the division of *frequencies in the usable portion of the *radio frequency spectrum among domestic radiocommunication services.

FREQUENCY MODULATION (FM) RADIO: audio transmission using *frequencies from 88 to 108 megahertz. (See *hertz.)

G

GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT: an orbital path in the plane of the Earth's equator. A *satellite in geostationary orbit therefore remains fixed relative to the Earth.

GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT: an orbital path at an altitude of 22,300 miles above the Earth's equator. A *satellite in geosynchronous orbit completes one revolution of the Earth at precisely the same rate as the Earth makes one revolution on its axis, thereby staying essentially at the same point relative to any point on the Earth at all times.

H

HERTZ: a measurement of *frequency equal to one cycle per second. One kilohertz is 1,000 hertz; one megahertz is one million hertz; one gigahertz is one billion hertz.

HIGH DEFINITION TELEVISION (HDTV): a television system that utilizes significantly increased numbers of scanning lines on a screen compared to conventional television transmission methods. HDTV provides improved color fidelity and resolution as well as stereophonic sound.

I

INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE COMPANY: a firm which is not affiliated with AT&T or the *Bell Operating Companies but is the designated *established carrier for the provision of *telecommunications *common carrier service in a specific geographic area. There are approximately 1,500 such companies in the United States which provide 20 percent of the Nation's telephone service.

INDEPENDENT TELEVISION STATION: a commercial television station which is not affiliated with one of the three major television networks (ABC, CBS, or NBC).

INSTRUCTIONAL TELEVISION FIXED SERVICE (ITFS): a television *microwave system set aside for educational use, which enables the transmission of instructional programming. These channels are reserved for non-profit educational purposes.

INTEGRATED CIRCUIT: a single piece of silicon on which any number of *transistors are directly etched along with the connections between them. This allows for whole sections of a computer, such as logic or memory components, to be contained within one chip.

INTEGRATED SERVICES DIGITAL NETWORK (ISDN): a concept for a general purpose network in which a wide range of telecommunications services can be conveyed using common digital connections.

INTERACTIVE CABLE SYSTEM: a *cable television system capable of transmitting *signals in both directions, thereby allowing viewer response or participation.

INTEREXCHANGE CARRIER: a provider of *telecommunications *interexchange service.

INTEREXCHANGE SERVICE: telephone service between a point or points located in one exchange area and a point or points located in another or multiple exchange areas. Under the *AT&T 1982 Consent Decree service provided between *local access and transport areas or service between a local access and transport area and a point outside that local access and transport area. (See *exchange service.)

INTERNATIONAL RECORD CARRIER (IRC): a carrier which formerly provided only international *telecommunications services other than voice communications (e.g., data, telex and facsimile). The *Federal Communications Commission however, in 1983 ended restrictions limiting the IRC's to provision of record services and allowed them to offer voice communications as well. This decision (the *Overseas Communications Services decision), also removed the limitation on AT&T to provide only voice transmission, enabling them to offer data services also.

K

Ka-BAND: the name for the 20-30 GHz (see *hertz) frequency bands. These bands are currently being used on an experimental basis.

KILOBYTE: one thousand *bytes of computer memory commonly abbreviated K. Thus, 64K describes a computer with 64 thousand *bytes (or 64 kilobytes) of memory.

KINGSBURY COMMITMENT: the December 1913 agreement between AT&T and the U.S. Department of Justice, witnessed by a letter from AT&T's Vice President Kingsbury (rather than a formal consent decree) by which the company agreed to: (1) dispose of its Western Union telegraph stock, (2) permit interconnection with independent telephone companies, and (3) refrain from actively acquiring more directly competing telephone companies. This agreement is generally credited with having prevented a Federal antitrust suit against AT&T's control of the telephone system.

Ku-BAND: the name for the 12-14 GHz (*see hertz) frequency bands. Proposed *direct broadcast satellite services will operate in these bands.

L

LASER: a tightly packed, narrow beam of light formed by the emission of high energy molecules. Acronym for light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation.

LOCAL ACCESS AND TRANSPORT AREAS (LATA'S): geographic regions which represent the post-divestiture service areas of the 22 *Bell operating companies. All telephone service within a LATA is defined as *exchange service, while service between LATA's is defined as *interexchange service.

LOCAL BYPASS: refers to the use of an alternative telecommunications system to that of the local *established carrier's to gain direct access to customers inside a local exchange area.

LOCAL LOOP: a *circuit connecting equipment to a switching facility or distribution point.

LOW-POWER TELEVISION (LPTV): a television broadcasting service in which stations televise programs with less power than traditional stations. It is designed to reach a small geographic area, having a typical station coverage area of 12 to 15 miles. (See section II also.)

M

MASTER ANTENNA TELEVISION (MATV): a system consisting of a television antenna and wiring which is shared by multiple television receivers for the purpose of clearly receiving broadcast signals. Such systems typically serve an apartment building or complex.

MEASURED LOCAL SERVICE: a method of pricing local telephone service based on the number, the duration, the time of day, and the distance of calls within the local exchange area instead of by a flat all inclusive rate.

MESSAGE SWITCHING: the technique of receiving a message, storing it until the proper outgoing line is available, and then transmitting it.

MESSAGE TOLL SERVICE (MTS): a non-*private line intrastate and interstate long distance telephone service which permits local subscribers to establish two-way service on a message-by-message basis.

MICROCOMPUTER: usually a 8 or 16-*bit computer which can be used on a stand-alone basis or as an intelligent terminal; contains at least one *microprocessor plus other supporting circuitry.

MICROPROCESSOR: an *integrated circuit chip which contains the electronics of a central processor unit.

MICROWAVE: a short electromagnetic wave in the *radio-frequency spectrum at 1,000 megahertz or greater. Any form of *signals can be transmitted at these *frequencies between two line-of-sight points.

MIGRATION STRATEGY: a marketing policy which encourages customers to replace their presently installed equipment with upgraded alternative (e.g., the purchase of electronic switching equipment to replace older, less versatile electro-mechanical equipment).

MINICOMPUTER: usually a 32- *bit computer typically used for dedicated applications and distributed *data processing.

MULTICHANNEL MULTIPOINT DISTRIBUTING SERVICE (MMDS): a *multipoint distribution service in which each service provider can offer up to four channels.

MULTIPLE SYSTEM OPERATOR (MSO): the owner of more than one *cable television system.

MULTIPLEXING: the division of the transmission *Bandwidth for use by two or more *signals, either by splitting the frequency band transmitted by the common channel into narrower bands, each of which is used to constitute a distinct channel (frequency-division multiplex), or by allotting the common channel to several different signals, one at a time (time-division multiplexing).

MULTIPOINT DISTRIBUTION SERVICE (MDS): over-the-air, line-of-sight transmission of information such as video programs by *microwave to subscribers with specially equipped receivers.

MUST CARRY RULE: see section II.

NARROWCASTING: programming targeted to appeal to specific demographic or special interest audiences, as opposed to mass audiences.

NATURAL MONOPOLY: a marketing situation in which it is considered to be more efficient and economical for a product or service to be provided by a single firm under regulation, than by two or more competing firms. The provision of telephone services was originally considered to be a natural monopoly market situation.

NETWORK AFFILIATED TELEVISION STATION: a commercial television station which is affiliated with one of the three major television networks (ABC, CBS, or NBC), and while not required, broadcasts programming and commercials provided by the network.

NETWORK OWNED AND OPERATED TELEVISION STATION (O&O): a commercial television station which is totally owned and operated by one of the three national television networks (ABC, NBC, or CBS). Each television network presently owns five *VHF stations, the maximum number of VHF stations allowed. (See *Seven-Seven-Seven Rule.)

NETWORK SYNDICATION RULE: see section II.

NON-TRAFFIC SENSITIVE COSTS (NTS): costs which do not vary with usage. In the provision of telephone service, facilities such as the *local loop, inside wiring and *customer premises equipment are considered to be non-traffic sensitive. (Opposite of *traffic sensitive costs.)

0

ONE-TO-A-MARKET RULE: see section II.

OFF-NETWORK PROGRAMMING: television programming which has previously appeared on network stations and is now available for *syndication.

OTHER COMMON CARRIER (OCC): any carrier authorized by the *Federal Communications Commission to provide *telecommunications services in competition with the *established carriers (e.g., *domestic satellite carriers and *specialized common carriers).

P

PACKET SWITCHING: a data communications switching and transmission system whereby an input data stream is broken into uniform "packets" to which is appended addressing information, sequence counts, and error controls. Each packet is transmitted independently through the network so as to maximize the utilization of transmission facilities, and at the receiving end the individual packets are resequenced and combined as necessary into the output data stream.

PAYCABLE: cable programming, not part of the *basic cable package, available to *cable television subscribers for an additional monthly charge.

PAY-PER-VIEW-TELEVISION: a *pay television service for which subscribers pay on a per-program basis; that is, the subscriber selects the desired programs and pays on a pay-as-you-watch basis rather than on a monthly subscription basis.

PAY TELEVISION: television service which is supported by direct payment by the viewers, versus commercial (advertiser supported) television, or *public television. Included in the pay television category are *multipoint distribution service, *paycable, *satellite master antenna television and *subscription television.

PERSONAL ATTACK RULE: see section II.

PETITION TO DENY: a petition filed by an interested person with the *Federal Communications Commission requesting that an application before the Commission not be granted. Section 309(d) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §309(d).

POSTAL, TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH (PTT) AUTHORITY: the term generally used to describe foreign telecommunications administrations. PTT's are often both the regulators and providers of most *telecommunications services and represent their governments in negotiation with foreign carriers and international telecommunications organizations.

PRIME TIME ACCESS RULE: see section II.

PRIVATE AUTOMATIC BRANCH EXCHANGE (PBX): a private automatic telephone exchange that provides for the transmission of calls to and from the public telephone network. Some PBX's now contain *microprocessors which make possible such services as direct-access inward dialing, automatic least-cost routing, speed calling, conference calling, and automatic ringing.

PRIVATE LINE SERVICE (PLS): a *telecommunications service used by high volume or special needs customers which offers a link between specific points solely for that customer's private use during specific time periods.

PUBLIC RADIO: noncommercial radio programming broadcast by stations which are supported by government funding, corporate and private donations, and other revenue sources.

PUBLIC TELEVISION: noncommercial television programming broadcast by stations which are supported by Government funding, corporate and private donations, and other revenue sources.

R

RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM: those *frequencies between the audio and visual ranges of the spectrum in which electromagnetic impulses can be radiated through space. This range is utilized for services such as two-way communications, radar, Earth resources sensing, and radio and television broadcasting.

RESALE CARRIER: a carrier which leases *circuits from a *telecommunications *common carrier and resells them to individual users for a profit.

S

SATELLITE, ARTIFICIAL EARTH: a manmade object which circles the Earth. A number of different types of artificial satellites are in operation today, including *telecommunications, broadcasting, weather, geodetic, navigation, reconnaissance, sensing, scientific, and manned satellites.

SATELLITE MASTER ANTENNA TELEVISION (SMATV): television systems that operate the same as *cable television systems, but are operated only on private property such as within apartment buildings and multi-unit condominiums. SMATV operators contract with property owners to supply television programming via satellite to homes on the property, as opposed to procuring franchises from local governments to use the public ways to supply such service to separate private homes.

SATELLITE SYSTEM: a space system using one or more artificial Earth *satellites.

SEMICONDUCTOR: a solid with an electrical conductivity that lies between the high conductivity of metals and the low conductivity of insulator. Semiconductor circuit elements include crystal diodes, *transistors, and *integrated circuits.

SEPARATIONS: the process by which telephone industry costs are allocated between interstate operations, subject to *Federal Communications Commission jurisdiction, and intrastate operations, subject to State regulatory authority.

SETTLEMENTS: the predivestiture process by which revenues derived from the provision of joint interstate and intrastate service were allocated between the *Bell System and the *Independent telephone companies. (See *division of revenues.)

SEVEN STATION RULE: see section II.

SHARED USER: one of several users who in a non-profit arrangement, collectively subscribe to a *private line service of an *established carrier and in turn share the costs of obtaining that service.

SIGNAL: electromagnetic energy used to convey information.

SPECIALIZED COMMON CARRIER (SCC): a carrier which provides intercity *private line service in competition with the established carriers.

SPECTRUM FEE: a charge proposed to be levied upon users of the *radio frequency spectrum, either in proportion to the *frequency space occupied or a percentage of profits realized. Proposals for use of such a "fee" or "tax" are generally viewed as methods for reimbursing the Government for associated regulatory costs and/or, for funding public broadcasting.

SUBSCRIBER LINE USAGE (SLU): a ratio reflecting minutes of use of local exchange telephone plant for interstate calls compared to the total minutes of use of the same equipment. SLU is used to develop the ratio of interstate usage to other (intrastate toll and local) usage of local telephone plant. The ratio developed based on SLU is a component of the *subscriber plant factor.

SUBSCRIBER PLANT FACTOR (SPF): the allocator traditionally used to assign non-traffic sensitive plant costs to the interstate jurisdiction. In most cases SPF is computed separately for each study area (i.e., the area served by a particular telephone company in a particular State.)

SUBSCRIPTION TELEVISION (STV): video broadcasting service available on conventional, over-the-air *very high frequency or *ultra High frequency television channels with signals scrambled so that programs may be received only by subscribers with special decoding receivers.

SYNDICATED PROGRAM EXCLUSIVITY RULE: see section II.

SYNDICATION: the sale of exhibition rights of programming.

T

TARIFF: a statement filed by a telecommunications *common carrier with the appropriate public regulatory agency which describes the service it offers and lists a schedule of charges for the use of that regulated *telecommunications service.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS: the transmission of *signals of any kind by wire, radio, optical, or any other systems.

TELETEX: a new world standard teletypewriter service which is faster and more flexible than *telex.

TELETEXT: a one-way information system in which textual and graphic material is generally conveyed as part of the television broadcast signal or over cable.

TELEX: the service which uses teletypewriters to send and receive information over a communications network. The work is an abbreviation of telegraph exchange.

TERMINAL EQUIPMENT: equipment capable of sending and/or receiving information over a *telecommunications channel and converting that channel for mechanical or human end use (e.g., switchboards, computers).

TRAFFIC SENSITIVE COSTS: costs which vary according to usage. In the provision of telephone service, an example is the use of certain switches which varies depending upon traffic levels. (Opposite of *non-traffic sensitive costs.)

TRANSBORDER DATA FLOWS: the term generally refers to the *transmission of data across national boundaries for processing and storage in foreign computers.

TRANSISTOR: a sandwich of semiconducting materials in which crystals are arranged to act as switches controlling the flow of currents throughout. Currently silicon crystals are the most common materials used.

TRANSMISSION: communications by means of an electronic signal.

TRANSPONDER: the satellite component that receives the *uplink signal, shifts it in frequency, and retransmits it back to Earth via the *downlink.

U

ULTRA HIGH FREQUENCY (UHF): any of the frequencies in the band between 300 and 3,000 megahertz. (See *hertz.) Television broadcasts on channels 14-83 use ultra high frequencies.

UNBUNDLED RATES: rates in which the various rate elements which comprise the service are separately stated, thereby enabling the identification of the charge for each component of the service. (See *bundled rates.)

UNIFORM SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS: a Federal Communications Commission prescribed accounting system encompassing both balance sheet and income statements accounts, used to review the operations of *telecommunications *common carriers under its jurisdiction.

UPLINK: a unidirectional transmission path from an *Earth station to a *communications satellite. (opposite of *downlink.)

V

VALUE ADDED CARRIER: a carrier which leases *circuits from *telecommunications *common carriers and then adds special services, such as computer oriented services, before retailing the use of the circuits to a final user.

VERY HIGH FREQUENCY (VHF): any of the *frequencies in the band between 30 and 300 megahertz. (See hertz.) Television broadcasts on channels 2-13 use very high frequencies.

VERY LARGE SCALE INTEGRATION (VLSI): the process of imprinting more than 5,000 logic *circuits or more than 16,000 memory bits on a single chip.

VIDEODISK: a disk the size of a record album which stores large amounts of data, audio and video information in digital form.

VIDEOTEX: a generic term referring to computer-based information retrieval systems which display text and graphics on a video screen. Videotex encompasses the concept of *teletext (one-way retrieval system), and *videotext (two-way or interactive retrieval systems).

VIDEOTEXT: a two-way computer-based information system in which the user is linked to the database by telephone line or cable. The system is interactive and users may send messages or perform transactions in addition to retrieving information.

W

WIDE AREA TELEPHONE SERVICE (WATS): a telephone service which allows a subscriber to make calls to specific geographic areas for a rate based on volume and time-of-day but generally less than that charged for *message toll service. Customers may also purchase "800" service which permits the subscriber to receive calls placed from specific areas with no charge to the caller.

X

Z

II. KEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAWS AND FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION DECISIONS AND REGULATIONS

ABOVE 890 DECISION: the *Federal Communications Commission decision concerning domestic allocation of *frequencies in the spectrum above 890 Megahertz, which is generally referred to as *microwave. The decision is most often cited for its conclusion that private point-to-point operations would be allowed frequencies in this spectrum, thereby creating alternatives to the *telecommunications *common carrier services then available and providing the basis necessary for competition in long distance telephone service. Allocation of Microwave Frequencies Above 890 Mc., Report & Order, 27 F.C.C. 359 (1959), reconsidered, 29 F.C.C. 825 (1960).

ACCESS CHARGE DECISION: *Federal Communications Commission decision on the computation and assessment of subscriber and *carrier's carrier charges to cover local exchange costs associated with the origination and termination of interexchange services. MTS and WATS Market Structure, Third report and Order, 48 Fed.Reg. 10319 (published March 11, 1983), reconsideration, 48 Fed. Reg. 42984 (published Sept. 21, 1983). Petitions for further reconsideration are pending before the FCC, and the final decision also has been appealed. National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners v. F.C.C., D. C. Circuit Court of Appeals Docket No. 83-1225.

AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH 1982 CONSENT DECREE: the judicially-accepted modified final judgment antitrust Consent Decree requiring AT&T divestiture, see United States v. American Telephone & Telegraph, Co., 552 F.Supp. 131 (D.C.D.C.1982), affirmed, 103 S.Ct. 1240 (1983). The court also reviewed and accepted the AT&T Reorganization Plan, see United States v. Western Electric Co., 569 F.Supp. 990 and 1057 (D.C.D.C.1983), affirmed, 52 USLW 3450 (Dec. 12, 1983). (See also section I.)

AUTHORIZED USER DECISION: the *Federal Communications Commission decision which removed the limitations on the *Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT) as a "carrier's carrier" which could supply *satellite *circuits only to other carriers. COMSAT is now able to lease satellite circuits directly to any user and is allowed to provide end-to-end services through a separate corporate subsidiary. Authorized User Policy, Report and Order, 90 F.C.C. 2d 1934 (1982). Stay granted pending appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit. (RCA v. FCC, Case No. 83-1241; WUI v. FCC Case No. 83-1244; ITT v. FCC, Case No. 83-1245; and TRT v. FCC, Case No. 83-1247.)

CABLE COPYRIGHT LAW: provisions of the Copyright Act of 1976 which established limited copyright protection for broadcast programs on *distant signals which are retransmitted over cable. Under the statute *cable television concerns pay an established royalty fee for a compulsory license in lieu of purchasing rights to each individual program retransmitted. These fees are distributed to copyright claimants by the *Copyright Royalty Tribunal. (Sections 106, 111, 801 of the Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. §§ 106, 111, 801.)

CANDIDATE ACCESS STATUTE: statutory obligation which requires broadcasters to afford all political candidates for Federal office reasonable access to the airwaves. Section 312(a)(7) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended 47 U.S.C. §312(a)(7).

CARTERPHONE DECISION: the judicial and regulatory decision which established the right of telephone subscribers to attach privately-owned instruments to telephone company lines if the system is not thereby adversely affected. Carter v. AT&T, 365 F.2d 486 (5th Cir. 1966), decision upon remand, 13 F.C.C.2d 420 (1968), reconsideration denied, 14 F.C.C.2d 571 (1968).

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC, v. DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE (also known as the Democratic National Committee Decision): a 1973 Supreme Court decision most often cited for the Court's holding that neither the *Communications Act nor the First Amendment requires broadcasters to accept or air paid editorial advertisements and that no private group or individual has a right to command use of broadcast facilities. Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc. v. Democratic National Committee, 412 U.S. 94 (1973).

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. v. FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (also known as the Carter-Mondale Decision): a 1981 Supreme Court decision in which the court upheld the constitutionality of a provision of the *Communications Act which requires broadcast stations to afford reasonable access to, or permit purchase of, reasonable amounts of air time by a legally qualified candidate for Federal office. The Court held that the statutory provision enhances First Amendment principles necessary for the effective operation of the democratic process. (See *candidate access statute.) Columbia Broadcasting Systems, Inc. v. F.C.C., 453 U.S. 367 (1981).

COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934: the comprehensive Federal statute governing all communication by wire and radio. It was originally enacted in 1934; various provisions have been amended and added since then. The major substantive authority is title II which governs wire communications, such as telephone and telegraph, and economic regulation of *telecommunications *common carriers generally (whether wire or radio) and title III which contains provisions particularly relating to use of the *radio frequency spectrum, including broadcast radio and television. (Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151 et seq.)

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS CO., INC. v. CITY BOULDER, COLORADO (also known as the Boulder Decision): a 1982 Supreme Court decision which held that local communities, when franchising *cable television operations, are not exempt from the Federal antitrust laws unless their action constitutes either action of the State itself in its sovereign capacity or municipal action in furtherance or implementation of clearly articulated or affirmatively expressed State policy (rather than action merely under local authority). Community Communications Co., Inc. v. City of Boulder, Colorado, 455 U.S. 40 (1982).

COMPUTER II DECISION (also known as the Second Computer Inquiry or Computer Inquiry II): the *Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulatory decision which amended the regulatory scheme governing provision of regulated telecommunications services. The F.C.C. abandoned its previous regulatory scheme, which had been based upon distinguishing between "communications" services (which are regulated) and *"data processing" services (which are not regulated). The Computer II regulatory scheme, which went into effect on January 1, 1983, is based upon differentiating between *"basic transmission" services (which are regulated) and *"enhanced" services and *"customer premises equipment" (CPE), (which are not regulated). The F.C.C. required CPE charges to be

*unbundled and sold separately. A.T.&T., the dominant carrier, was permitted to sell competitive services (such as enhanced services and CPE) only through separate subsidiaries. All carriers were required to keep separate accounts of their regulated basic service and their competitive services to prevent *cross-subsidization between the two. 47 C.F.R. §64.702, see Second Computer Inquiry, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 77 F.C.C.2d 384 (1980), reconsideration, 84 F.C.C.2d 50 (1980), 88 F.C.C.2d 512 (1981), affirmed sub nom. Computer & Communications Industry Ass'n v. F.C.C., 693 F.2d 198 (D.C.Cir.1982), cert. denied sub nom. Louisiana v. United States, 103 S.Ct. 2109 (1983).

DISTANT SIGNAL RULE: the *Federal Communications Commission regulation, repealed in 1980, which limited the number of distant broadcast signals which cable systems were permitted to import into major markets. 47 C.F.R. §§76.59 (b)-(e), 76.61 (b)-(f), 76.63 (1980), repealed.

DUOPOLY RULE: the *Federal Communications Commission regulation which prohibits the common ownership within the same geographic area of more than a single broadcast station in the same service. 47 C.F.R. §73.35 (AM radio), 73.240 (FM radio), 73.636 (television).

DOMSAT DECISION (also known as the Open Skies Decision): the *Federal Communications Commission decision which allowed any non-Federal Government entity, including the *Communications Satellite Corporation, *other common carriers, and noncarriers to construct and operate either individually or jointly *communications satellite facilities for domestic use. Domestic Communication-Satellite Facilities, First Report & Order, 22 F.C.C. 2d 86 (1970), Second Report & Order, 35 F.C.C.2d 844 (1972), modified, 38 F.C.C. 2d 665 (1972).

EQUAL TIME: the statutory obligation which requires broadcasters to afford all political candidates for the same office equal opportunities to use a station's facilities if any one such candidate is permitted use. Section 315 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §315.

EXECUNET DECISIONS: Two decisions of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals which had the effect of approving competition in the long distance telephone market. In the first decision, the court reversed and remanded the *Federal Communications Commission's decision not to approve *tariffs filed by Microwave Communications, Inc. (MCI), for its "Execunet" service. "Execunet" essentially provided an alternative long distance network for subscribers by allowing them to interconnect over the telephone lines with a MCI *microwave link to a distant city, then re-connect into the telephone system. In this manner, telephone calls could be made from phones in one city to phones in a distant city without utilizing the long distance lines provided by the *established carriers. The court in its second decision required A.T.&T. to provide local physical interconnection with its network (which was essential to provision of end-to-end service). MCI Telecommunications Corp. v. F.C.C., 561 F.2d 365 (D.C.Cir.), cert. denied, 434 U.S. 1040 (1977) (Execunet I); MCI Telecommunications Inc. v. F.C.C., 580 F.2d (590 (D.C.Cir.)), cert. denied, 439 U.S. 980 (1978). (Execunet II).

FAIRNESS DOCTRINE: a series of broadcast regulations promulgated by the *Federal Communications Commission which requires broadcasters to: (1) devote a reasonable amount of their programming to controversial issues of public importance, and (2) present contrasting views on such issues. Congressionally-recognized in Section 315(a)(4) of the Communication Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §315(a)(4).

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION v. PACIFICA FOUNDATION (also known as the Seven Dirty Words or Pacificia Decision): a 1978 Supreme Court decision in which the Court upheld sanctions imposed by the *Federal Communications Commission (FCC) against a licensee for having broadcast a recorded monologue which was titled and repeatedly used "filthy words." The Court, taking into account that the broadcast was at a time of day (2 p.m.) when children could reasonably be expected to be in the audience, upheld the F.C.C.'s sanctions against the airing of "indecent" although not "obscene" language finding it to be within the statutory prohibition of "obscene, indecent, or profane language by means of radio communication" and not protected by the First Amendment. F.C.C. v. Pacificia Foundation, 438 U.S. 726 (1978).

FINANCIAL INTEREST RULE: the *Federal Communications Commission regulation which prohibits the television broadcast networks from owning any financial or proprietary right or interest in those television programs which are wholly or partially produced by a person other than the network itself. 47 C.F.R. §73.658(j)(ii).

HUSH-A-PHONE DECISION: the judicial and regulatory decision which established the right of telephone subscribers to use their telephone instruments in any manner so long as doing so is not detrimental to the telephone system. Hush-A-Phone Corp. v. United States, 238 F.2d 266 (D.C.Cir. 1956), decision upon remand, 22 F.C.C. 112 (1957).

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SATELLITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1978: the statute which authorizes U.S. participation in a global satellite system designed to serve maritime commercial and safety needs for participating nations. The statute provides for the *Communications Satellite Corporation to be the U.S. participant. (International Maritime Satellite Telecommunications Act of 1978, 47 U.S.C. §§751 et seq.)

MIAMI HERALD v. TORNILLO (also known as the Tornillo Decision): a 1974 Supreme Court decision in which the Court struck down a State statute which provided candidates with a right of reply to personal attacks printed in newspapers. Although the State statute appeared similar to broadcasting's *Fairness Doctrine, which had been upheld in 1969, in *Red Lion Broadcasting Co. v. F.C.C., the Supreme Court held that such a requirement applied to newspapers violated the First Amendment. Miami Herald v. Tornillo 428 U.S. 241 (1974).

MICROWAVE COMMUNICATIONS, INC. (MCI) DECISION: the *Federal Communications Commission decision which granted the applications of Microwave Communications Inc. (MCI) to provide point-to-point communications services to subscribers in direct competition with the *established carriers. Microwave Communications, Inc., Decision, 18 F.C.C.2d 953 (1969).

MUST CARRY RULE: the *Federal Communications Commission regulation which requires *cable television systems to carry the broadcast *signal which are receivable over-the-air within the community served, 47 C.F.R. §§76.57-76.65.

NATIONAL BROADCASTING CO. v. UNITED STATES (also known as the NBC Decision): a 1943 Supreme Court decision in which the Court held that the "public interest" standard of the *Communications Act authorized the *Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to interest itself in general broadcast program format and kinds of broadcast programs aired by its licensees, and that in doing so the FCC does not violate the First Amendment. National Broadcasting Co. v. United States, 319 U.S. 190 (1943).

NETWORK SYNDICATION RULE: the *Federal Communications Commission regulation which prohibits the television broadcast networks from syndicating (see *syndication) television programs within the United States for non-network television exhibition or syndicating television programs outside the United States for which the network is not the sole producer. 47 C.F.R. §73.658(J)(i).

ONE-TO-A-MARKET RULE: the *Federal Communications Commission regulation which prohibits ownership of any commercial radio broadcast station in the same area as a commonly owned television station. 47 C.F.R. §636.

OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES DECISION (also known as TAT-4 Revisited): the *Federal Communications Commission decision which removed entirely the distinction between voice and record carriers, enabling the *international record carriers to provide voice service and AT&T to provide record services. Overseas Communications Services, Report and Order, 48 Fed. Reg. 797 (publ. Jan. 7, 1983).

PERSONAL ATTACK RULE: the *Federal Communications Commission regulation which provides that when an attack is made upon the honesty, character, integrity, or like personal qualities of an identified person or group, during presentation of views on controversial issues of public importance, broadcast licensees must, among other things, offer a reasonable opportunity to the attacked person or group to respond. 47 C.F.R. §73.1920. (See *Fairness Doctrine.)

PRIME TIME ACCESS RULE: the *Federal Communications Commission rule which prohibits *network affiliated stations in the top 50 television markets from broadcasting more than three hours of network or *off-network entertainment programming during prime time. 47 C.F.R. §73.658(k).

PUBLIC BROADCASTING ACT of 1967: the statute which provides for planning and construction assistance to public telecommunications facilities and demonstration projects, and established the *Corporation for Public Broadcasting to facilitate the development of public broadcasting. (Public Broadcasting Act of 1967, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 390 et seq.)

RADIO DEREGULATION DECISION: the *Federal Communications Commission decision to eliminate or amend a number of regulations applicable to commercial radio broadcasters. The Commission eliminated the formal procedures for *ascertainment of community problems, although it continued the *ascertainment requirement itself; eliminated non-entertainment programming guidelines; and deleted certain program log requirements. The Court of Appeals remanded the Commission's

decision insofar as deletion of program log requirements is concerned, and affirmed the other actions. Deregulation of Radio, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 84 F.C.C.2d 960 (1981), reconsideration denied, 87 F.C.C.2d 797 (1981), affirmed in part and remanded in part sub nom. Office of Communications of the United Church of Christ v. F.C.C., 707 F.2d 1413 (D.C.Cir.1983). See Deregulation of Radio, further notice of proposed rulemaking, 48 Fed.Reg. 33499 (publ. July 22, 1983).

RECORD CARRIER COMPETITION ACT OF 1981: the statute which amended the *Communications Act of 1934 to require the *FCC to promote the development of fully competitive domestic and international markets for record ("hard copy") *common carrier service. Also requires the *FCC to forbear from regulating such carriers if warranted by increased competition in provision of the services. (Record Carrier Competition Act of 1981, 47 U.S.C. §222.)

RED LION BROADCASTING CO. v. FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (also known as the Red Lion Decision): a 1969 Supreme Court decision in which the Court upheld application of the *Fairness Doctrine, including the *personal attack rule. The Court held that the *Fairness Doctrine was within the authorized power of the *Federal Communications Commission to regulate radio in the public interest, convenience, and the necessity, a standard established in title III of the *Communications Act as amended, and reaffirmed by the Congress when amending Section 315 of the Act in 1959. The Court also held that the regulations enhanced First Amendment values "in view of the scarcity of broadcast *frequencies, the Government's role in allocating those frequencies, and the legitimate claims of those unable without governmental assistance, to gain access to those frequencies for expression of their views." Red Lion Broadcasting Co. v. F.C.C., 395 U.S. 367 (1969).

SEVEN STATION RULE (also known as the SEVEN-SEVEN-SEVEN RULE): the *Federal Communications Commission regulation which prohibits the common ownership within the United States of more than seven television (of which no more than five may be on the *very high frequency channels 2-13), seven AM radio, or seven FM radio stations, 47 C.F.R. §73.35(b)(1) (AM Radio), 73.240(a)(2) (FM Radio), 73.636(a)(2) (television).

SPECIALIZED COMMON CARRIER DECISION: the *Federal Communications Commission decision which established the policy of approving applications for provision of *telecommunications services by new carriers. The Commission announced that it would approve competitive applications, rather than approving only one applicant and thereby creating monopoly service. This policy favored entry of new carriers to provide *specialized common carrier services. Specialized Common Carrier Service, First Report & Order, 29 F.C.C.2d 870 (1971), reconsideration denied, 31 F.C.C.2d 1106 (1971), affirmed sub nom. Washington Utility and Transportation Comm'n v. F.C.C., 513 F.2d 1142 (9th Cir. 1975), cert. denied, 423 U.S. 836 (1975).

SYNDICATED PROGRAM EXCLUSIVITY RULE: the *Federal Communications Commission regulation, repealed in 1980, which prohibited *cable television systems from retransmitting the syndicated programs carried on *distant signals which had been purchased by local broadcast stations if the local broadcast station requested deletion, 47 C.F.R. §§76.151-76-161 (1980), repealed.

TRANSBORDER SATELLITE VIDEO SERVICES DECISION: *FCC Decision to authorize use of domestic satellites for services between the United States and Canada, Central America, and the Caribbean in cases where to allow such service would not cause *INTELSAT the economic harm contemplated in Article XIV of the *INTELSAT agreement. Transborder Satellite Video Services Memorandum Opinion, Order, and Authorization, 88 F.C.C.2d 258 (1981).

UNIFORM SETTLEMENTS ON PARALLEL INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS ROUTES DECISION: the *Federal Communications Commission decision which requires uniform accounting and settlement rates and division of tolls by all carriers serving identical international routes. Uniform Settlement Rates on Parallel International Communications Routes, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 84 F.C.C.2d 121 (1980).

UNITED STATES v. SOUTHWESTERN CABLE CO. (also known as the Southwestern Decision): a 1968 Supreme Court decision in which the Court sustained the jurisdiction of the *Federal Communications Commission to regulate the *cable television industry under the *Communications Act to the extent that such regulation is "reasonably ancillary to the effective performance of the Commission's various responsibilities for the regulation of television broadcasting." United States v. Southwestern Cable Co., 392 U.S. 157 (1968).

III. SELECTED TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE CORPORATION (COMSAT): a private corporation created by the *Communications Satellite Act of 1962. COMSAT is the U.S. participant in the *International Telecommunications Satellite Organization and the provider of international *satellite services for communications between the United States and foreign countries. COMSAT also is the U.S. representative to the *International Maritime Satellite Organization and provides a number of domestic satellite communications facilities and services. Three out of fifteen members of the Board of Directors are appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATIONS (CEPT): an organization of 26 European postal, telephone, and telegraph authorities (governed by a biennial plenary conference), and two permanent commissions, one for postal matters and one for *telecommunications matters.

COPYRIGHT OFFICE: the Federal body that is part of the Library of Congress statutorily charged with the administration of the Federal copyright law. Areas of interest include *cable television, public broadcasting, *computer software, off-air recording, photocopying, and motion picture and sound recording piracy.

COPYRIGHT ROYALTY TRIBUNAL: the Federal body appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate statutorily charged with, among other duties, the adjustment of cable copyright compulsory license fees and the distribution of such collected fees to copyright claimants.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING (CPB): a private independent, non-profit corporation established pursuant to title II of the *Public Broadcasting Act of 1967 (P.L. 90-129), whose major function is to act as the administrative organization that distributes Federal funds for public broadcasting to assist local public broadcast activities. Members of the Board of Directors are appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC): the Federal regulatory body appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate with jurisdiction over all nongovernmental use of *radio frequency spectrum (including broadcast radio and television) and interstate or foreign communication by wire (including telephone and cable).

INTERDEPARTMENT RADIO ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IRAC): a committee or representatives from 20 Federal agencies that assists the *National Telecommunications and Information Administration in the development of the National Table of *Frequency Allocations, the assignment of *frequencies to stations operated by the Federal Government, and other spectrum management functions.

INTERNATIONAL FREQUENCY REGISTRATION BOARD: the permanent organ of the *International Telecommunications Union which examines notifications of *frequency assignments from member nations for conformity with international radio regulations and provides advice regarding these regulations.

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SATELLITE ORGANIZATION (INMARSAT): the global maritime *communications satellite system established in 1976. Commercial service began on February 1, 1982. There are 37 members to INMARSAT, including the *Communications Satellite Corporation which acts as the U.S. representative.

INTERNATIONAL RADIO CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCIR): the permanent organ of the *International Telecommunications Union in which member nations and recognized private operating agents formulate recommendations concerning technical and operational radio matters.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE ORGANIZATION (INTELSAT): an international organization established in 1964 which owns and operates the global *satellite communications system. Today there are 109 members of the system.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ITU): an international organization which is a specialized agency affiliated with the U.N. responsible for coordinating international *telecommunications, including spectrum management. It currently has over 150 member nations.

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCITT): the permanent organ of the *International Telecommunications Union where member nations and recognized operating agents formulate recommendations concerning technical operational, and *tariff aspects of international telegraph and telephone *telecommunications.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (NTIA): the administration within the U.S. Department of Commerce, which serves as the principal advisor to the executive branch on *telecommunications matters. It manages the spectrum allocated to the Federal Government, facilitates more efficient Government telecommunications spending, and engages in research and policy planning.