



# THE FREE STATE FOUNDATION

A Free Market Think Tank for Maryland.....Because Ideas Matter

## *"Regulatory Reform at the FCC: Why Not Now?"*

*U. S. Capitol Visitor Center - Congressional Meeting Room North  
Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 11:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.*

### **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

#### **Congressman Cliff Stearns**

***Chairman, House Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations***

**Cliff Stearns** (R-FL) was elected in 1988 to the U.S. House of Representatives, his only elected office. For the 112th Congress, Rep. Stearns is the Chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee in the Energy and Commerce Committee. As Chairman, he will act to rein in excessive federal regulations, to hold all federal agencies accountable to the American public, and to increase transparency in the private sector. In addition, he serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications and Technology; and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade. In the previous Congress, Rep. Stearns was the Republican Leader on the Communications, Technology and the Internet Subcommittee (formerly the Telecommunications and the Internet Subcommittee). He was active on the Subcommittee in reforming antiquated laws that hinder the development and expansion of new products and services. In addition, he was a leader in opposing Internet regulation (net neutrality). From 2001 until 2007, Stearns was Chairman of the Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection Subcommittee where he led efforts to expand consumer protection by enhancing cyber-security, consumer privacy, and data-security. He is a member of the Energy and Environment Subcommittee in the Energy & Commerce Committee and a member of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus, a bi-partisan forum for discussing and disseminating information about renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. Rep. Stearns was born in Washington, DC. He attended George Washington University, graduating with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He participated in U.S. Air Force ROTC on scholarship at GWU and was honored as the Air Force ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate. Following graduation, he served four years in the U.S. Air Force as an aerospace engineer in satellite reconnaissance during the Vietnam War.

**James Assey*****Executive Vice President, National Cable & Telecommunications Association***

**James M. Assey, Jr.** began his tenure as Executive Vice President for the National Cable & Telecommunications Association on February 1, 2008. As NCTA's second most senior executive, he is involved in all aspects of NCTA's work on behalf of the cable industry. Before coming to NCTA, Mr. Assey was a longtime staff member on the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. Most recently, he was Senior Democratic Counsel to the Committee, and earlier was Senior Democratic Counsel on Communications and Media Issues for the Committee and Telecommunications Counsel. Mr. Assey is a graduate of Stanford University and Georgetown University Law School. He was awarded the Annenberg Fellowship to Eton College in England and has taught communications law as an adjunct faculty member of Georgetown University Law School.

**Steve Largent*****President & CEO, CTIA-The Wireless Association®***

**Steve Largent** became President and CEO of CTIA-The Wireless Association® in November 2003. Prior to joining CTIA, Mr. Largent represented Oklahoma's First Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1994 to 2001. He is also currently President of The Wireless Foundation. Mr. Largent was the Vice-Chairman of the Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee and also served on the Telecommunications Subcommittee, the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, and the Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee. His seven-year voting record reflects consistent support for lower taxes, less regulation, and strong free markets. Mr. Largent has also managed his own advertising and marketing consulting firm, where he worked with numerous Fortune 500 companies around the country. He received a B.S. in Biology from the University of Tulsa.

**Edward P. Lazarus*****Chief of Staff, Federal Communications Commission***

**Edward P. Lazarus** was named chief of staff of the Federal Communications Commission in June 2009. He previously was co-leader of the firm-wide litigation practice at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and a member of the firm's management committee, overseeing more than 800 lawyers. He is a former prosecutor, having served as an assistant U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California, and started his legal career as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun. Mr. Lazarus has also served as the Chairman of the Board of AbilityFirst, a provider of housing and vocational services to people with disabilities, and the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles, a nonprofit legal services organization that represents roughly 25,000 dependent youth in Southern California. He is a graduate of Yale University and its law school.

**Randolph J. May**  
***President, The Free State Foundation***

**Randolph J. May** is President of The Free State Foundation, an independent, non-profit free market-oriented think tank. Before entering the think tank world, he practiced communications, administrative, and regulatory law as a partner at major national law firms. He served as Assistant General Counsel and Associate General Counsel at the Federal Communication Commission from 1978 to 1981. Mr. May has held numerous leadership positions in bar associations, including serving as Chair of the American Bar Association's Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice and a member of the ABA's House of Delegates. He has written regular columns for *Legal Times* and the *National Law Journal*. He has published more than one hundred twenty-five articles on communications, administrative, and constitutional law topics and is the editor or co-editor of three books on communications law and policy.

**Walter McCormick**  
***President & CEO, USTelecom***

**Walter B. McCormick, Jr.**, is the President & CEO of the United States Telecom Association representing broadband service providers, manufacturers and suppliers. Prior to joining USTelecom in 2001, Mr. McCormick served as President & CEO of the American Trucking Association. His background also includes service as a member of the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee; as General Counsel of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Transportation; and as a partner with Bryan Cave LLP, an international law firm of more than 500 lawyers, where he headed the practice group on Regulatory Affairs, Public Policy and Legislation. Mr. McCormick holds degrees in journalism and law from the University of Missouri.

**Gigi Sohn**  
***President, Public Knowledge***

**Gigi B. Sohn** is the President and Co-Founder of Public Knowledge, a nonprofit organization that addresses the public's stake in the convergence of communications policy and intellectual property law. She is a Senior Adjunct Fellow at the Silicon Flatirons Center for Law, Technology and Entrepreneurship at the University of Colorado and a Senior Fellow at the University of Melbourne Faculty of Law, Graduate Studies Program in Australia. She previously served as a Project Specialist in the Ford Foundation's Media, Arts and Culture unit. Prior to joining the Ford Foundation, she served as Executive Director of the Media Access Project, a public interest law firm that represents citizens' rights before the FCC and the courts. She currently serves on the board of the Telecommunications Policy Research Conference and the Sports Fans Coalition. She holds a B.S. in Broadcasting and Film, Summa Cum Laude, from the Boston University College of Communication and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.