

The Free State Foundation

FOR RELEASE:

February 12, 2009 10:00 AM

News Release

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FSF "New Directions" Conference Agenda Announced

Rep. Marsha Blackburn, Former FCC Chief of Staff Blair Levin Headline Program

POTOMAC, MD – The [agenda](#) for the Free State Foundation's February 26 "*New Directions in Communications Policy*" conference has been announced, with Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and former FCC Chief of Staff Blair Levin slated for keynote roles. In releasing the agenda, Free State Foundation President Randolph May stated: "I am really gratified that we were able to put together a conference in which so many of today's acknowledged communications policy thought leaders are participating. With the extraordinary lineup of speakers, I have no doubt that the forward-looking discussion we will have concerning new directions in communications policy will be impactful." The conference runs from 8:45 AM – 4:15 PM at the National Press Club, 529 14th Street, Washington, DC.

Rep. Marsha Blackburn will deliver the conference's opening keynote address. She is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Deputy Minority Whip of the House of Representatives. Rep. Blackburn's frequent appearances on radio and television and positive mention in national publications like the Wall Street Journal have made her a well-recognized free enterprise and government reform advocate. In carrying out her duties as a member of the Commerce Committee and House leadership team, Rep. Blackburn has demonstrated a strong interest in market-oriented reform of communications policy. Blair Levin is Managing Director at Stifel Nicolaus and served as an Obama Transition Team Leader for the technology policy group. He was Chief of Staff of the FCC from 1993 – 1997 under FCC Chairman Reed Hundt. Mr. Levin, widely credited with being one of the nation's most knowledgeable experts on telecom policy and the workings of the FCC, will participate in a "Conversation with Blair Levin on FCC Reform and Other Issues" during the lunch session which begins at 1:00 PM.

There will be three panels exploring the full range of the most significant and topical communications policy issues. The titles of the panel sessions are: (1) "New Directions in Broadcast Policy: Is Net Neutrality Necessary or Advisable?" (2) "New Directions in Universal Service and Intercarrier Compensation: Are There More Efficient, More Rational Ways Forward?" and (3) "New Directions for Mass Media Policy: Can We Do With Less Regulation in the Digital Age?" The panels will be moderated, respectively, by former FCC Chairman Michael Powell, former FCC Commissioner and current FSF

Distinguished Adjunct Senior Fellow Deborah Tate, and former FCC Chairman Richard Wiley. According to May, "we are fortunate to have two former Chairmen and a former Commissioner moderating these panels. But surely one of the attractions for them is the high quality of the panelists. Each session is sure to produce much insightful discussion for those interested in understanding the direction of telecom policy."

The complete conference agenda is [here](#).

If you wish to reserve a space to attend the conference, please RSVP to Susan Reichbart [here](#).

The Free State Foundation is an independent non-profit tax-exempt free market-oriented think tank.

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