



**Minority Media &
Telecom Council**

2012 Annual Report



**Minority Media &
Telecom Council**

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**MMTC 2012 ANNUAL REPORT
January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012**

MMTC's MISSION

The Minority Media and Telecommunications Council is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecommunications, and broadband industries. MMTC is the leading advocate for minority participation in the communications industries. We seek to preserve and expand minority ownership and equal employment opportunity in these industries and to close the digital divide.

2012 HIGHLIGHTS

In the rapidly changing communications industry, we are faced with many of the same civil rights issues.

Minority ownership and employment in broadcasting and high tech continues to decline. In 2012, the FCC released a [Report on Ownership of Commercial Broadcast Stations](#), indicating persistently low levels of minority ownership. For example, racial minorities owned 2.2 percent of full power commercial television stations, 6.2 percent of commercial AM, and 3.5 percent of commercial FM stations. These low numbers illustrate that many of the gains we achieved in minority ownership and diversity have been reversed.

But looking back on 2012, despite the daunting challenges facing our economy in general, and underserved communities in particular, MMTC has stayed true to our mission by making every effort to keep pace with the changes, and the challenges, that confronted minority entrepreneurs and communities of color. Our advocacy efforts have evolved from a primary focus on ensuring equal employment opportunity and station ownership in broadcasting to include increasing minority ownership and participation in the digital economy and ensuring that communities of color are not left on the wrong side of the digital divide.

While there is still much to be done in bridging the digital divide, closing the wealth gap, alleviating the impending spectrum crunch, and preserving entrepreneurship and career opportunities in traditional and new media, we are proud that our work helps to advance minority ownership and opportunity, increase minority broadband adoption, and improve the diversity of voices in the communications industries.

2012 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- MMTC Media Brokers is a member of the National Association of Media Brokers (NAMB) and the only minority/multicultural brokerage in the nation. MMTC's brokerage, founded in 1997, has participated in transactions valued at nearly \$2B and has assisted hundreds of interested parties and new entrants. Our brokerage helps conduct business planning and due diligence, and creates model documents and resources for new entrants. Further, the brokerage team incubates new entrants by connecting them to industry players to build their networks and strengthen their ability to optimize business planning.
- MMTC Broadcasting, LLC, placed 89 LPTV stations, donated to MMTC by Trinity Broadcasting Network, with eight buyers, six of which are minority owned, and all of which agreed to provide training for minorities in television sales and operations. MMTC has received several donations of radio stations, primarily from Clear Channel Communications, which MMTC uses to train minorities and women in broadcast operations and entrepreneurship.
- The Broadband and Social Justice Blog (BBSJ.org), MMTC's first venture into the blogosphere, was launched in September 2010 to promote civil rights in the media and telecom space. BBSJ.org takes no advertising. By the end of 2012, BBSJ attracted a subscribership of over 12,500 individual users, and published nearly 400 articles written by MMTC staff, consultants, industry experts, and guest contributors. These articles cover diverse issues including broadband access, minority media entrepreneurship, foreign ownership, spectrum legislation, and consumer-oriented topics. In 2012, MMTC revamped its Picks of the Week page, making it more inviting and user-friendly. Since, the weekly feature's popularity has grown immensely and gained much attention within the industry.
- We expanded our regular "MMTC Best Minds" Public Policy Forums:
 - Forum on Spectrum Exhaust
 - Reception honoring outgoing FCC Commissioner [Michael Copps](#)
 - Forum on whether we need a new Telecom Act in the digital age
 - Panel featuring Commissioner Ajit Pai and industry experts on telecom and diversity policy
- We filed in the following proceedings before the FCC:
 - Quadrennial Regulatory Review
 - Interim benchmarks for lower 700 MHz A and B block licenses
 - Broadcast foreign ownership under Section 310(b)(4)
- We organized and filed an historic *amici curiae* brief in the Supreme Court on behalf of MMTC, six former Federal Communications Commissioners, and a former FCC General Counsel in [Fisher v. University of Texas](#), which considers the constitutionality of affirmative action in education.

MMTC PROGRAMS

Fellowship Program

Perhaps MMTC's greatest achievement is our fellowship program, through which we have trained 52 fellows since 1994 to practice before the Federal Communications Commission and to continue the legacy of MMTC's co-founders to advocate for equal opportunity and inclusion in the communications industries. MMTC's fellowship program has created a steady pipeline of lawyers and law students who are well-trained for careers in communications law.

Our three fellowships are:

- (i) The *Earle K. Moore Fellowship*, which was founded in 1997 and named after the United Church of Christ attorney who pioneered civil rights practice before the FCC.
- (ii) The *John W. Jones Fellowship*, which was founded in 2006 and named after the late General Counsel of Radio One, Inc., who devoted his life to minority media entrepreneurship.
- (iii) The *Cathy Hughes Fellowship*, which was founded in 2010 and named in honor of the pioneering founder and Chair of Radio One, who cares deeply about civil rights issues in the communications space.

2012 Annual Broadband and Social Justice Summit

In January 2012, MMTC convened our third annual *Broadband and Social Justice Summit*, at which over 150 academic and policy experts, students, community leaders, and business people discussed spectrum reallocation, the Obama Administration's broadband agenda, and how content drives broadband adoption. MMTC also introduced and conferred two new awards to recognize advocates and trailblazers in new media. As broadband access, adoption, and informed use frame the civil rights issues of our time, future BBSJ Summits will continue to provide a much-needed forum to discuss communications policy issues of direct interest and relevance to the minority community. The 2012 inaugural awardees were as follows:

Champion of Digital Equality Award

Tanya Lombard

Digital Media Pioneer for Social Justice Award

Dennis Leoni

Issa Rae

2012 Annual Access to Capital Conference

In July 2012, we convened our tenth annual MMTC *Access to Capital Conference*. This Conference has become the largest minority media and telecom financial forum in the nation, with over 300 registrants and 150 online visitors, the Conference attracted entrepreneurs, bankers, and investors, as well as legislators and FCC commissioners. In 2012, in addition to the regular financial and policy forums, MMTC and the National Association of Multicultural Digital Entrepreneurs hosted a “Next Generation Media and Telecom Entrepreneurs Boot Camp,” a case study of Interactive One, a panel on Five Decades of Entrepreneurial Women, and a special presentation on the representation and historic portrayal of Latinos in media.

2012 MMTC Hall of Fame and Service Awards

Every year since 1997, MMTC has inducted distinguished industry and public interest leaders into the MMTC Hall of Fame and has conferred awards for exemplary service. The 2012 awardees were as follows:

<p>Hall of Fame inductees David Grain Sharon Weston-Broome</p> <p>Everett C. Parker Lifetime Achievement Award Hon. James E. Clyburn</p> <p>Corporate Diversity Leadership Award AT&T</p> <p>Extraordinary Service Award Dr. Nicol Turner-Lee Kristal High</p> <p>Excellence in Financial Services Award The Wentworth Group</p>

MMTC’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

MMTC is a nonpartisan and not-for-profit corporation, having been organized under the laws of the District of Columbia and IRS Section 501(c)(3). It is governed by a 17-member Board of Directors, which receives policy advice from a 30-member Board of Advisors.

On January 1, 2012, a new team began to lead MMTC as we entered our second generation of service.

- Hon. Julia Johnson, former Chair of the Florida Public Service Commission, accepted the baton as MMTC's Chair, succeeding Hon. Henry Rivera.
- Former FCC Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate became Vice Chair, succeeding Maurita Coley.
- Ronald Johnson, President of Ronson Network Services, became Treasurer, succeeding Julia Johnson.
- Vice Chair Erwin Krasnow and Board Secretary Ari Fitzgerald continued to provide excellent service in their current roles.
- Maurita Coley, previously MMTC's Vice Chair, joined the staff as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.
- Hon. Henry Rivera, to whom we owe tremendous gratitude for his 25 years of dedicated and extraordinarily effective volunteer service, became Chair Emeritus and continues to serve on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

MMTC OPERATIONS AND RESOURCES

Corporate Office

MMTC operates cost-effectively from an inexpensive Washington, D.C., office. In 2012, MMTC retained 10 full-time employees, consisting of the CEO and COO, three Fellows, two staff counsel, a research director, a research associate, a communications director, and five program consultants, as well as over a dozen contributing writers for the BBSJ Blog.

MMTC's Executive Leadership

MMTC's President, David Honig, who co-founded MMTC in 1986 along with seven other media and telecommunication industry advocates, strengthened MMTC's management team by hiring Maurita Coley as Chief Operating Officer. Honig, a renowned communications and civil rights attorney, has practiced before the FCC and the federal courts since 1983. Honig has written extensively on minorities in the media and on the digital divide and, as an NAACP participating attorney, serves pro bono as chief counsel for the Florida NAACP. Maurita Coley, former MMTC Vice Chair, member of the board of directors, and an experienced media and communications industry attorney, joined MMTC as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer on January 1, 2012.

Financial Statements

MMTC's audited financial statements and IRS Form 990 are available upon request.

MMTC Welcomes Your Membership and Support

MMTC needs and welcomes your financial support! All contributions are tax-deductible. Financial support from MMTC's members, corporate sponsors, and donors is critical to MMTC's continued service as an advocate for diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity in the nation's media and telecommunications industries.

MMTC membership is open to individuals, businesses, and nonprofit organizations. A membership application may be downloaded [here](#).

If you would like to structure a special donation, bequest, or establish an endowment or a named fellowship, please contact David Honig, President, at (202) 332-7005 or dhonig@crosslink.net, or Maurita Coley, COO, at (202) 422-4411 or mcoley@mmtconline.org.

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