



**Minority Media &
Telecom Council**

2013 Annual Report



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Telecom Council**

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**MMTC 2013 ANNUAL REPORT
January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013**

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.

2013 HIGHLIGHTS

The communications landscape is still rapidly changing, but in 2013, we confronted many of the same civil rights issues the nation has experienced for quite some time. In some respects, many of the gains in minority ownership and employment from the 1990s were reversed. However, new opportunities in the digital ecosystem emerged.

FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski stepped down from his position as head of the FCC, leaving behind a legacy of the *National Broadband Plan* and related broadband initiatives. Hon. Mignon Clyburn assumed the reins as Acting Chairwoman, becoming the first female and the first woman of color to serve as FCC Chair, before turning over the chief spot to FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler. MMTC has been an integral part of each of these leadership changes.

Several of MMTC's proposals and key stakeholder issues were addressed in 2013, including the relaxation of foreign ownership rules, addressing MWBE participation as a key factor in the FCC's Wireless Competition Report, revitalizing USF's E-Rate and Lifeline programs, reducing predatory prison phone rates, taking proactive steps to revitalize AM radio, and approving the largest minority spectrum deal in U.S. history, among other issues.

MMTC has stayed true to our mission by making every effort to keep pace with the changes, and the challenges, that confront 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, ensuring diverse participation in spectrum transactions, 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.

2013 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- During the January Broadband and Social Justice Summit, MMTC held the inaugural meeting of its New Telecom and Internet Policy Taskforce, which was created after MMTC collaborated with a number of bipartisan parties in 2012 to investigate whether there was a need to rewrite Congress' current telecommunications policy. Congressmen Emeriti Clifford Stearns (R-FL) and Edolphus Towns (D-NY), with more than 50 years of experience as members of the House of Representatives, co-chair the Taskforce. The Taskforce meets biannually to design and advocate for telecom and Internet policy reform through legislation, rulemaking, executive orders, public-private partnerships, and best practices.
- MMTC partnered with the National Urban League and National Council of La Raza to broker the largest minority spectrum deal in history. In the three-way transaction with AT&T and Verizon Wireless, minority-owned private equity firm Grain Management acquired 700MHz of A and B block wireless spectrum in a transaction valued at \$287 million. Although Grain ultimately acquired the spectrum, MMTC worked with NUL and La Raza to help conduct broad outreach to minority and women owned telecommunications companies and entrepreneurs, advising some 45 firms on procedures and strategies for bidding on the spectrum.
- MMTC Media Brokers, founded in 1997, is the only minority/multicultural brokerage in the nation. The brokerage is a member of the National Association of Media Brokers (NAMB) and RadioTVDeals.com, the largest multi-list marketplace for radio and TV stations for the sale or lease. Since its founding, MMTC's brokerage has participated in transactions valued at nearly \$2 billion 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. In 2013, Suzanne Gougherty joined MMTC as Director of MMTC's Broadcasting and Brokerage Operations, with Judith Wing serving as it Paralegal.
- The Broadband and Social Justice Blog (BBSJ.org) was launched in September 2010 to promote civil rights in the media and telecom space. BBSJ.org takes no advertising. By the end of 2013, BBSJ attracted a subscribership of over 12,500 individual users, and published nearly 550 articles written by MMTC staff, consultants, industry experts, and guest contributors. These articles cover diverse issues including broadband access, minority media entrepreneurship, foreign

ownership, vital FCC matters, and consumer-oriented topics. Near the end of 2013, MMTC decided to rebrand BBSJ to acknowledge the quality and depth of its writings and to bring more weight to its voice, renaming it the “Broadband and Social Justice Online Magazine.”

- MMTC President David Honig and Dr. Nicol Turner-Lee released a signature White Paper titled, “Refocusing Broadband Policy: The New Opportunity Agenda for People of Color.” The paper outlined a new approach to broadband policy that includes modernizing the E-rate program and using broadband to transform education, facilitating universal telemedicine and mobile health innovation, expanding digital employment and entrepreneurship for people of color, and rolling back the regressive taxation of wireless services and e-commerce that hinders broadband adoption and informed use.
- MMTC held its first Women’s History Month event, honoring the women leaders of the FCC. The event, titled “FCC Women Leaders Past and Present Celebrate Her-Story,” honored over 60 FCC women leaders, including current and former commissioners, general counsels, bureau and office chiefs, chiefs of staff, ALJs, and secretaries. Commissioners Jessica Rosenworcel and Mignon Clyburn provided opening and closing remarks, and numerous honorees provided inspiring stories of their journeys as women leaders. The event was well-received within the industry and in the press.
- We filed in the following proceedings before the FCC:
 - IP Network Transition
 - Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries
 - Wireless Competition
 - Spectrum Licensing and Incentive Auctions
 - Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees
 - The Tell City AM Radio Revitalization Waiver Request
 - The FCC’s Quadrennial Regulatory Review

MMTC PROGRAMS

Fellowship Program and Mentoring

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. While in the past, MMTC has designated certain fellowships as honorary, future fellowships will be funded by outside donors and benefactors.

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.

Also in 2013, the MMTC Mentoring Committee, led by MMTC Vice Chair Erwin Krasnow of Garvey Schubert Barer, provided strategic career counseling and mentoring to MMTC associates and alumni, to assist them in connecting with career opportunities. Other members of MMTC's Mentoring Committee include Erin Dozier, NAB; Kyle Dixon, Time Warner; Frank Montero, Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth; and Henry Solomon, MMTC Broadcasting and Brokerage. In 2013, MMTC alumni successfully secured career opportunities at the following:

- Kenneth Mallory, People's Counsel, District of Columbia Public Service Commission –
- Gavin Login, Senior Counsel, DC Cable Commission
- Whitney Marshall, Legislative Aide, U.S. Congressman Hank Johnson

2013 Annual Broadband and Social Justice Summit

In January 2013, MMTC convened our fourth annual *Broadband and Social Justice Summit*, "Creating Economic Opportunity through Digital Equality," at which over 250 academic and policy experts, students, community leaders, and business people discussed opportunities for entrepreneurs in a digital economy, the role of new legislation in the drive for technological change and congressional involvement in Internet and telecom policy, opportunities available through the spectrum incentive auctions and infrastructure buildout, and innovative government and private sector initiatives designed to stimulate economic opportunity, among other topics. MMTC also introduced its New Telecom and Internet Policy Taskforce, chaired by Congressmen Emeriti Clifford Stearns and Edolphus Towns. 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.

2013 Annual Access to Capital and Telecom Policy Conference

In July 2013, MMTC convened our twelfth annual MMTC *Access to Capital & Telecom Policy Conference*, "Maximizing Innovation, Inclusion, and Entrepreneurship in a Digital Economy." This Conference has become the largest minority media and telecom

financial forum in the nation, attracting over 300 entrepreneurs, bankers, and investors, as well as legislators and FCC commissioners. In 2013, some of the nation's most visionary leaders on telecom policy and entrepreneurship convened to discuss how the Small Business JOBS Act, the National Broadband Plan, and private sector initiatives can spur job creation and investment for telecom MWBEs; why technology is the civil rights issue of the 21st century; how innovation and education can shrink the wealth gap, the jobs gap, and the broadband adoption gap; how minority-owned channels can thrive in a multi-platform marketplace; the fight to restore minority media and telecom ownership, and several other issues.

2013 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 2013 awardees were as follows:

Hall of Fame inductees

Ronald Gordon
David Grain
Brent Wilkes

Everett C. Parker Lifetime Achievement Award

Hon. Jonathan S. Adelstein
Hon. Robert W. McDowell

Corporate Diversity Leadership Award

Verizon

Extraordinary Service Award

Fisher v. University of Texas Amicus Brief Signators:

Hon. Andrew C. Barrett
Hon. Tyrone Brown
Hon. Michael J. Copps
Hon. Reed Hundt
Hon. Nicholas Johnson
Hon. Gloria Tristani
Christopher Wright, Esq.

Distinguished Pro Bono Service Award

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer And Feld, LLP
Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP

Champion of Digital Equality Award

David L. Cohen

Digital Media Pioneer for Social Justice Award

Mrs. Martha Wright-Reed

Ava DuVernay
Campaign for Prison Phone Justice
Prison Phone Rates Collaborative

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 16-member Board of Directors, which receives policy advice from a 27-member Board of Advisors. The Board of Directors and Officers are:

- Hon. Julia L. Johnson, Chair
- Hon. Deborah Taylor Tate, Vice Chair
- Erwin Krasnow, Vice Chair
- Ari Fitzgerald, Secretary
- Ronald Johnson, Treasurer
- Hon. Henry M. Rivera, Chair Emeritus
- Dr. Jannette Dates
- Jeneba Jalloh Ghatt
- Leo Hindery
- Kim Keenan
- Deborah Lathen
- Nicolaine Lazarre
- Francisco Montero
- Everett C. Parker
- Andrew Schwartzman
- Brent Wilkes

MMTC OPERATIONS AND RESOURCES

Corporate Office

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). At the end of 2013, MMTC had 11 full-time employees, consisting of the President, COO, and Chief Research and Policy Officer, three Fellows, a chief of staff, a research director, a research associate, a communications director, and a director of Hispanic Affairs, in addition to outside program consultants.

We do not accept support from discriminators and others who would exploit our constituency. MMTC continues to remain neutral in telecom battles over issues that we believe have little to do with diversity and minority ownership. Our focus is always and entirely on civil rights in the communications space.

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 Dr. Nicol Turner-Lee as Vice President and Chief Research and Policy Officer in August. Dr. Turner-Lee brought years of experience in media and telecom policy and research to the organization, enabling MMTC to enhance its policy and research initiatives. Most recently, Dr. Turner-Lee held senior executive positions at NAMIC and the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. In addition to representing MMTC at various speaking engagements since her hire, David Honig and Dr. Turner-Lee released a White Paper in November 2013 on refocusing broadband policy to provide opportunities for communities of color. In addition to Honig and Dr. Turner-Lee, Maurita Coley leads MMTC as its Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

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 david@davidhonig.org, or Maurita Coley, COO, at (202) 973-4314 or mcoley@mmtconline.org.

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