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## The Institute for Communications Law Studies at the Catholic University of America

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## **PREFACE**

### **THE INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNICATIONS LAW STUDIES AT THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA**

We in the Institute for Communications Law Studies are pleased to have this issue of the Catholic University Law Review dedicated to communications law. This issue represents an ambitious effort to analyze some of the major new questions in communications law by leading practitioners in the field.

As such it is yet more grist for the Institute's mill. The Institute, designed to educate law students in the intricacies of communications law, prides itself in presenting to the students legal materials on the cutting edge of the communications revolution sweeping the world.

These materials are presented in seven courses offered to a highly select group of students at the Columbus School of Law of the Catholic University of America. They are: New Communications Technologies and the Law; Communications Common Carrier Regulation; Broadcast Regulation and Policy; Federal Communications Commission Practice and Procedures; Copyright Problems of the Media; First Amendment Problems of the Media and an advanced seminar on Contemporary Problems in Communications.

As an example of the contemporaneity of the instruction, before the ink was even dry on Chief Judge Harold Greene's opinion requiring revision of the Justice Department-AT&T antitrust suit settlement, the case was being analyzed by Professor Jill Kasle in her Common Carrier Regulation course. Professor Kasle was a participant in the suit as a consultant to AT&T. All of the Institute's instructors are involved first hand in the communications revolution as communications lawyers in law firms, communications trade associations or academic institutions.

But classroom analysis alone will not prepare today's students for participation in the legal side of the communications revolution. The Institute offers the students "hands on" experience through up to two academic years of internships with government agencies such as the Federal Communications Commission, quasi-governmental corporations such as the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, media organizations such as Na-

tional Public Radio, public interest organizations such as The Media Access Project and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and, of course, leading communications law firms such as Cohn and Marks of Washington, D.C. and Sidley and Austin of Chicago.

Students accepted into the Institute have, for the most part, extensive backgrounds in journalism, broadcasting and other forms of communications, including computer communications. They are highly motivated to combine their interest in communications with their pursuit of the law, and willingly accept a heavier work load for their three years of law school than that of the average law student.

The Institute's entire operation is designed to turn out the best-trained neophyte lawyers the field of communications law has ever seen. Until now no American law school has provided the extensive program for law students that is needed to prepare them for the rigors of careers in the communications industry, which is soon to be (if not already) America's largest economic base.

In providing this unique program through the Institute for Communications Law Studies, the Columbus School of Law has broken new ground in American legal education. The Institute recognizes the need for specialized training of undergraduate law students and is willing to meet that need, while simultaneously providing students with a sound, general education in the law.

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