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Obama Looks to Nominate New FCC Chairman; Copps Designated Acting Chair

President Obama reportedly plans to nominate Julius Genachowski, a technology advisor on Obama's Transition Team, as the next FCC Chairman, but that pick is not yet official. Last week, Obama appointed current Commissioner Michael Copps to serve as Acting Chairman until a new Chairman is confirmed. Obama will have to fill one more vacancy to replace former Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate. Julius Genachowski clerked for Supreme Court Justices David Souter and William Brennan, served as Chief Counsel to former FCC Chairman Reed Hundt in the 1990s, was a senior executive at IAC/InterActiveCorp, and founded an investment and advisory firm for digital media companies.

Former Chairman Martin Responds to House Report

As previously reported (See [Vol. V, Issue 50](#)), the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce released a report last month titled *Deception and Distrust: The Federal Communications Commission Under Chairman Kevin J. Martin* regarding former FCC Chairman Kevin Martin's management of the FCC. On January 19, Martin issued his response to the report. According to Martin, the report "ignored relevant information, contained numerous errors and lacked substance." A copy of Martin's response is available at www.fcc.gov.

FCC Commissioners Support Delay of DTV Transition

As previously reported (See [Vol. VI, Issue 2](#)), President Obama has requested that Congress extend the DTV Transition date beyond February 17, 2009. On January 16, FCC Commissioners Jonathan Adelstein and Michael Copps sent a letter to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation and U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce also expressing their concern that the country is not adequately prepared for the transition.

FCC Reports on Video Programming and CMRS Competition, High-Speed Connections

On January 16, the FCC released its Thirteenth Annual Report to Congress on the Status of Competition in the Video Programming Market, a Notice of Inquiry seeking data and information for the Fourteenth Annual Video Competition Report, a Thirteenth Annual Report on the Status of Competition in the Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS) market, and a Report on high-speed Internet access connections. Copies of the Reports are available on the FCC website at www.fcc.gov.

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