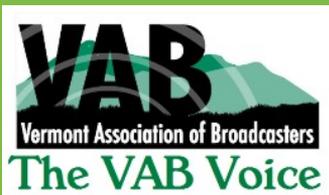


Vermont Association of Broadcasters

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Court Tosses JSA Rules

FC Last Wednesday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit released a decision that eliminated the FCC's pending rules forbidding most Joint Sales Agreements (JSA's) between TV stations in the same market. The court agreed with the NAB and others who said such rules cannot be made until the FCC completes its required quadrennial review of radio and TV ownership rules. The quadrennial review due in 2010 has yet to happen, and now the 2014 review is also overdue. The court said it would throw out all of the ownership rules unless the FCC completes the reviews by the end of this year.

Congrats to Eileen Casey

Eileen Casey of Williston has been named to the Governor's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities.



She is an Account Executive at WCAX-TV Channel 3. In 2008, she was named Advocate of the Year by the Amputee Coalition of America for her advocacy work for people with disabilities. She also serves on the board of Friends of Stowe Adaptive and the Burlington Boys & Girls Club. Good work, Eileen!

175 ATTEND VAB CONVENTION IN MONTPELIER



NAB President Gordon Smith addresses the VAB Convention May 25 in Montpelier

Thanks to everyone who attended the VAB's 61st Convention May 25 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, and thanks to everyone who helped make it happen!

Six seminars were presented, including two each from sales guru Sean Luce and programming expert Sean Ross.

Luce drew large crowds for his "Liquid Fire" seminars, designed to "light the fire in your sales career."

Ross gave a programming overview during his first seminar and then conducted a roundtable discussion featuring a group of regional Program Directors. Participants included Matt Grasso of WIZN, Terry Jaye of WJJR, TJ Michaels from WRFK and Sam Zneiber from CKBE.

Burlington attorney Kerin Stackpole presented a seminar on "How to Avoid Legal Problems in the Workplace." As usual, she did an excellent job.

Washington-based broadcast attorney David Oxenford must also be commended for doing a great job discussing a variety of regulatory matters. He was introduced by NAB President Gordon Smith, who gave his brief take on the national election scene.

Smith later addressed the entire convention during a lunchtime speech. He stressed the impact local broadcasters can have on their elected officials. Local input can be crucial when it comes to determining national broadcast issues, Smith said.

Our next major event will be the 2016 Hall of Fame Awards Banquet, which will be held later this year at the Burlington Hilton. Details to come!

Overtime Changes Challenge Broadcasters

The U.S. Department of Labor published new rules May 18 that will more than double the minimum salary level needed to be exempt from overtime rules under the Fair Labor Standards Act.



The changes are expected to affect some four million workers, including many of those in the broadcasting industry. The new rules will continue to exempt announcers, chief engineers and some reporters in cities with less than a population of 100,000. However, every station should examine the new rules, scheduled to take effect on December 1, 2016. Our friends at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP have put together a handy guide to help you understand and adapt to the new rules. [Click here to download it now.](#)



ONLINE PUBLIC FILES FOR TOP 50 RADIO STARTS IN JUNE

By David Oxenford, Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP

The FCC has announced that the obligation to start uploading documents to the online public file for radio stations in the Top 50 markets will begin on June 24 (all other stations will need to comply with the new rules by March 1, 2018 – the Burlington/Plattsburgh market is # 144).

The FCC's notice can be found here: http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0512/DA-16-536A1.pdf

Note that the FCC is planning a webinar on the online public file at a date to be announced in the near future. The online public file will be moving to a new database and, also effective on June 24, TV licensees will need to use this new database too - what the FCC calls the OPIF (for expanded "online public inspection file") as opposed to the old BPIF ("broadcast public inspection file").

The FCC suggests that the new database will allow for easier uploads - including the ability to upload a single document into multiple stations' files at the same time. Stations can try out the new system at: <https://publicfiles-demo.fcc.gov/admin/>

For Top 50 market radio stations that are part of employment units with 5 or more full-time employees, the June 24 date will mark the start of their obligation to upload materials to the online public file. New public file documents created on or after that date are to be placed in the online public file. Stations have 6 months from the effective date (until December 24, 2016) to upload to the online public file existing documents that are already in their paper public file. This would include documents like EEO Public Inspection File Reports and Quarterly Issues Programs Lists.

For more information about the online public file for radio, see [my article here](#).

(Follow David's Broadcast law blog [here](#))

Commercial Winners Announced

Montpelier, VT --- Burlington radio station WIZN-FM and Colchester advertising agency Mt Mansfield Media won Best in Show awards May 25 at the Commercial of the Year Awards luncheon at the Capitol Plaza Hotel.

The competition is organized by the Vermont Association of Broadcasters and the awards were announced during the organization's 61st annual convention in Montpelier.

WIZN won the radio Best in Show award for "Jimmy Ex-Girlfriend Files," a Valentine's Day promotional spot.

Mt Mansfield Media won the television Best in Show prize for "Oxen Exhaust," a promotional spot for the Tunbridge World's Fair.

Nearly 200 entries were received from Vermont radio stations, television stations and advertising agencies. The three groups compete amongst themselves in the categories of commercials, promotional spots and public service announcements.

Mt Mansfield Media also won first place awards for agency radio and agency television commercials. Their radio winner was "Plants Noir Radio," a spot for Guy's Farm and Yard. Their agency television award was for "The Job Hunt," an ad for Westaff.

Besides the radio Best in Show award, WIZN also won a first place prize in the promo category for "Kickoffs and Kash Finale," a spot for City Sports Grille.

WJOY-AM in Burlington won the first place award for radio commercials for "Things that Suck," a spot for Vacuum City.

Rutland radio station WSYB-AM won a first place award for "High School Wasn't for Me," a public service announcement on behalf of Vermont Adult Learning.

TV Station WFFF won a first place award in the public service category for "Spectrum's Student Sleep Out," and another first place prize in the promotional spot category for "Non-Stop Comedy Block."

Top prize in the television station commercial category went to WPTZ for "Celebrate the Lake," a spot for the ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain.

Burlington advertising agency Urban Rhino won a first place award in the public service category for "Let's Grow Kids - Tough Choices #1."

The VAB's annual competition is the only such broadcast advertising contest in Vermont.

The VAB is a non-profit trade association founded in 1955 to assist Vermont's radio and television stations.

[Click here](#) for the complete list of winners, including writing, production and talent credits.



Congratulations to all the Commercial of the Year Winners!



Top row: Ben Chiappinelli, Mt Mansfield Media; Kate Lanza, Devon McGarry & Mitch Terricciano, WIZN; Brian Damm, WPTZ; The Catamount Radio crew.

Second row: Andy Brumbaugh, WFFF; Bruce James, WGMT; Kate Lanza & Jon Brooks, WJOY; Tony Cunavelis, Mt Mansfield Media.

Third row: Nathan Beaman, Urban Rhino; Mitch Terricciano & Joey Vega, WIZN; Abby Smith, Mt Mansfield Media.

Thanks for attending the 61st Annual VAB Convention!



Clockwise from upper left: Sean Ross with Sam Zneiber, Matt Grasso, Terry Jaye & T.J. Michaels; Sean Luce; David Oxenford; NAB President Gordon Smith & VAB Executive Director Jim Condon; Kerin Stackpole. Photos by Jay Austin and Jim Condon

See more photos at www.vab.org