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Former Leahy Aide NAB VP



The National Association of Broadcasters announced Oct. 23 that Curtis LeGeyt has been promoted to the position of Senior VP, Public Policy.

In that role, LeGeyt will serve as NAB's principal liaison to the White House and executive departments.

LeGeyt joined NAB in 2011 after serving as Senior Counsel to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy of Vermont. LeGeyt has been a featured speaker at the VAB's annual convention.

LeGeyt earned a J.D. from Cornell University Law School and his B.A. in Quantitative Economics from Providence College.

WJJZ Signs on in Derby
Orleans County now has its very own country music station, now that WJJZ-FM (94.5 MHz) has signed on.



The station is owned by Bruce James and his Vermont Broadcast Associates. James told the Newport Dispatch News the project has been in the works for a couple of years.

"We've been getting many requests from country music listeners to build a radio station that can be heard where they work, travel, and live, that plays popular country music," James said.

The WJJZ studios are located with VBA stations WMOO-FM and WIKE-AM in Derby Center.



November
2014



2015 Is An ABIP Year - VAB to Pay 90% of Costs

Every three years the VAB, in cooperation with the FCC, encourages stations to enroll in the Alternative Broadcast Inspection Program (ABIP) to help stations ensure they are in compliance with FCC regulations.

Under this program, a station that is inspected by a VAB technical inspector and certified to be in compliance with the FCC's technical rules, is exempt from routine inspections by the FCC Field Office for three years.



ABIP Inspector Robert Shotwell

The program costs \$500 per inspection, but the VAB will pay the first \$450 for stations that get all of the necessary paperwork in by July 1, 2015. The VAB will contribute \$400 for those stations that enroll later than July 1.

"This is probably the single greatest VAB member station benefit," said VAB Executive Director Jim Condon. "Just knowing your station is in compliance and exempt from surprise FCC visits helps owners and engineers sleep better at night."

The VAB's ABIP inspector, Robert Shotwell of Spectrum Investigative Services, is approved by the FCC to conduct inspections. These inspections are typically based upon the applicable FCC Broadcast Station Self-Inspection Checklist. Shotwell will work with stations to schedule the ABIP inspection at a convenient time.

Stations will be notified of any detected violations and given a reasonable period of time to correct violations. A re-inspection may be conducted if necessary. When the station is in compliance, the VAB will send a Certificate of Compliance to the station and a copy of the certificate will be sent to the FCC Field Office in Quincy, Massachusetts.

To learn more and to access the 2015 ABIP Station Agreement, visit our ABIP page on our website at <http://vab.org/abip.htm>.

"Duke" Eaton: From WJOY Newsroom to Vermont Supreme Court



Harold "Duke" Eaton was sworn in as Vermont's newest Supreme Court Justice last month. The 59-year-old Woodstock resident is the first graduate of Vermont Law School to be selected for the high court. Before and during his law school years, he worked as an announcer and news reporter for WJOY-AM in Burlington. He told the *Burlington Free Press* he remembers racing to get news stories along with WJOY News Director and VAB Hall of Fame member

Andy Potter. "We used to say 'First, when seconds count,'" he told the *Free Press*. Eaton worked at the station from 1975 to 1983.



Click here to register for the 20th Annual VAB Hall of Fame Awards Banquet.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014

Hilton Burlington, Battery Street in Burlington

5:30 - 6:45 Cocktails

7:00 Dinner and Awards

Only \$25 per person

You must pre-register and pre-pay for this event. Tickets are limited.

\$50 room rates at the Hilton are available until Nov. 17 or until sold out.

Semi-formal encouraged but not required.



Click on the picture above to download the 2014 poster as a .pdf.

From Gordon Smith, NAB President



Mid-Term Elections and Lame Duck Congress Approach

Formal action on legislative issues in Congress has largely paused as legislators push to the finish of their mid-term election campaigns. While we won't seek to analyze this election until the final results are in, we are alert for the ways any changes could impact broadcasters' legislative issues in the next Congress.

We look forward to educating the next Congress on the value of broadcasters' service and localism in communities across the country. These core messages, at the heart of what you do and NAB's advocacy for you, are powerful in any legislative environment. For example, Federal Emergency Management Association Administrator Craig Fugate recently praised the power of radio-enabled mobile phones in emergencies, when your round-the-clock coverage and broadcast's efficient architecture can truly save lives.

After the election, the current Congress will have a brief lame duck session to wrap up remaining issues, including a reauthorization of the core provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act (STELA), which are set to expire at the end of the year. The House of Representatives and the Senate Judiciary and Commerce Committees have all passed versions of STELA reauthorizations, which need to be merged and passed.

Throughout the STELA reauthorization process, NAB has maintained that a "clean" reauthorization, without the pay-TV lobby's legislative add-ons, will best serve viewers. This is not the appropriate forum for comprehensive video reforms. Due to broadcaster advocacy, certain harmful provisions included in draft legislation did not make the final version passed by the Senate Commerce Committee. As the timeline closes, NAB maintains our position advocating for a clean STELA reauthorization.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a blog post extending its proposed timeline for the spectrum incentive auctions to 2016, and implying that legal challenges from broadcasters are part of this delay. NAB welcomes this news, and we have maintained from the beginning that it is more important to get the auction done right than "right now."

However, we reject suggestions that our narrowly focused lawsuit is cause for delay. We look forward to a speedy resolution of our legal challenge and a successful auction that preserves access to free and local TV for every American.

We believe the Copyright Royalty Board (CRB) should start anew in setting license fees for radio stations' streaming services that more accurately reflect rates that would be agreed upon by a willing buyer and willing seller in a competitive market. In our filing submitted with the CRB on October 7, we said that previous license rates were based on flawed evidence and analysis of a non-competitive market and should not be factored into the new rates set by the CRB.

In the filing, NAB noted that existing streaming rates stem from the rates originally set by the CRB during a proceeding that concluded in 2007, which wrongly used the licenses granted by major record labels for interactive on-demand streaming services to set the licensing rates for non-subscription, advertiser-supported services such as radio stations' online streaming. Of the seven streaming services the CRB used in setting licensing fees rates for radio, only one service has not failed. This is evidence that the existing rate structure is too high to allow broadcasters to achieve a return on streaming.