This is your new

Telecommunications Law
Answer Book 2016

Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
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PLI’s Telecommunications Law Answer Book 2016 is a comprehensive overview of the many issues faced by the various participants in the telecommunications industry. Prepared by the experts at Drinker Biddle & Reath and presented in an easy-to-read Q&A format, the Answer Book provides expert guidance on numerous issues for practitioners, corporate general counsel and senior management, and other professionals in the many areas of the telecommunications industry. Coverage of the latest developments in the ever-evolving field of telecommunications includes:

New Regulatory Framework for Broadband. On January 14, 2014, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in Verizon v. FCC vacated the FCC’s anti-discrimination and anti-blocking requirements for broadband providers because the FCC failed to show that these rules do not impose per se common carrier obligations. The court upheld transparency and disclosure requirements on broadband providers, concluding that they were severable and, on their own, did not amount to per se common carriage. The decision left the door open for the FCC to reclassify broadband service as telecommunications service subject to Title II regulation. Taking the Verizon decision’s implicit invitation, and after tremendous public participation, the FCC released a new template for future regulation of a basket of mass market retail services that it has named “broadband Internet access services” (BIAS), and issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to examine a range of options to ensure that the Internet remains open. Chapter 6 has been completely revised to provide the most accurate, up-to-date coverage of broadband regulation and policies. See also updated coverage in chapters 2 and 4.

Privacy and Data Security. On June 1, 2015, section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act lapsed, ending legal authority for the NSA’s bulk collection of telephone metadata. The Congress subsequently passed

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the USA FREEDOM Act, and as this publication was going to press, the bill was headed to President Obama to be signed into law. See Q 11.19.4. In the area of data breaches, the Data Security Act of 2015, a bipartisan data security bill, has been introduced to the House. See Q 11.6.2 for details.

Regulation of Telecommunications Carriers Providing Interstate and Foreign Communications. The procedures governing the discontinuation, impairment, or reduction of services by domestic interstate telecommunications carriers have been in the spotlight recently, particularly as the transition to IP-based services and network technologies has led many carriers to consider discontinuing legal services based on time division multiplexing (TDM) technology. The FCC recently issued a notice of proposed rulemaking focused on these issues. See QQ 4.8–4.8.1.

Privacy Enforcement. The FCC recently has provided strong indications that it will play a more aggressive role in the enforcement of privacy requirements, especially as it relates to carriers under its jurisdiction and the measures they take to protect the privacy of the customer information they collect. See Q 4.27 for details.

Closed-Captioning of Internet Video Programming. See Q 10.10.2 for the most recent phase-in requirements.

Foreign Ownership and Participation. In May 2015, the FCC issued its first decision under its new case-by-case approach to foreign ownership above 25% in the context of broadcast stations. See Q 13.5 and the Pandora Radio LLC case study in chapter 13.

Practising Law Institute is proud to publish Telecommunications Law Answer Book 2016. If you have any comments or questions, please contact us (see Questions About This Book? on the page following the title page).