Communications, Financial Services and Interstate Commerce Committee
Legislative Summit

Net Neutrality Update Agenda

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Monday, July 30
4:30-5:30 p.m.
LACC 406 AB

Net Neutrality Update

After the Federal Communications Commission released the Restoring Internet Freedom Order, over half the states introduced legislation to restore net neutrality, where all data on a network is treated indiscriminately. Learn the latest from experts who will provide the lay of the land, and join the discussion about the FCC action, developments at the state level, the prospects for litigation, and possible action on Capitol Hill.

Moderator:

• Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, California

Speakers:

• Ernesto Omar Falcon, Electronic Frontier Foundation, California
• Kim Keenan, Internet Innovation Alliance, Washington, D.C.
• Adam Peters, Wilkinson, Barker, Knauer LLP, Colorado
Ernesto Falcon

Legislative Counsel

Ernesto Falcon is Legislative Counsel at the Electronic Frontier Foundation with a primary focus on intellectual property and open Internet issues.

Prior to joining EFF, Ernesto worked as a legislative staffer for two Members of Congress (2004-2010). He then became Vice President of Government Affairs at Public Knowledge where he advocated on behalf of consumers on copyright issues and broadband competition. During his tenure, Public Knowledge was successful in achieving one of the largest consumer victories in telecom policy by defeating AT&T’s merger with T-Mobile. The following year, PK and EFF scored a major victory for consumers by rallying the Internet community to defeat the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA).

After eight years in Washington DC, he returned to his home state of California to go to law school at McGeorge School of Law in order to strengthen his digital rights advocacy. Now, as an attorney, he is excited to rejoin the fight for consumers and Internet freedom.

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Kim Keenan is Co-Chairwoman of the Internet Innovation Alliance (IIA). Well-versed in telecom law and a strong supporter of net equality, Keenan joins Honorary Chairman Rick Boucher and IIA Founding Co-Chairman Bruce Mehlman to further the organization’s mission of expanding broadband availability and access for all Americans. “Kim is a respected advocate for unserved and underserved communities and brings a deep understanding of the broadband policy issues that are shaping the future of the tech and telecom landscape,” commented Boucher, a 28-year Congressman who chaired the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Communications and the Internet. “I look forward to working alongside Kim to advance internet openness, consumer privacy, diversity and other leading policy goals.”

Keenan capably led the Multicultural Media, Telecom & Internet Council (MMTC) as President and CEO from 2014 through 2017. At the beginning of this year, she joined Odyssey Media as the Executive Vice President for Marketing and Research. At MMTC, Keenan created the Capital Pitch Competition to provide seed money to multicultural entrepreneurs in technology and the College Tech Prep Summit, which provides college students with career preparation for digital and technical careers, as well as industry internships. She also launched a “Net Equality Tour” to educate the public on telecommunications issues impacting daily life and was instrumental in building a partnership with the National Urban League and the Wireless Infrastructure Association to develop a telecommunications apprenticeship program for the Department of Labor.

Prior to her role with MMTC, Keenan was the longest serving female General Counsel of the NAACP, in addition to holding the position of Secretary. She also previously served as principal of her own law firm and in the litigation practices of two top law firms. Keenan is a nationally recognized speaker, a Senior Adjunct Professor at the George Washington University Law School, and the recipient of awards including the Media Executive of the Year from Vote It Loud, the NAACP Medgar Evers Award for Excellence, the Charging Buffalo Award from the New York Society, and the Distinguished Civil Rights Advocate Award from the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. “IIA is fortunate to have such an esteemed and experienced leader like Kim join our team,” shared Mehlman. “She will no doubt be a valuable partner in the mission to advance smart internet policies that protect consumers and help close the digital divide, while encouraging investment and innovation.” After more than six years, Jamal Simmons stepped down from his role as IIA Co-Chairman at the end of 2017 to pursue a new digital media opportunity.