Small Cell and 5G: Regulation and Innovation
Music City Center, Nashville
Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2019
2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

As the “internet of things” becomes a reality, how does policy keep up with technology innovation? Hear the latest on state and federal activity, including efforts by Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to preempt and regulate states. Hear experts address employment in the era of 5G, the digital divide, and emerging regulatory issues as they respond to small cell technology and 5G rollout.

Speaker Biographies
Moderator: Representative Matt Lehman (IN)

Gerard Lederer, BBK Law

Gerard Lavery Lederer’s unique background as a nationally recognized telecommunications, cable and small cell lawyer combined with his experiences as a registered federal lobbyist provides clients unparalleled service in seeking both legislative and transactional solutions. Prior to joining Best Best & Krieger LLP as a partner in the Municipal Law practice group in Washington, D.C., Gerry was an attorney with Miller & Van Eaton, a highly regarded local government rights of way law firm.

Gerry is one of the nation’s leading authorities on marketplace solutions for the seamless integration of cable and wireless technology into communities. He authored “Critical Connections” and “Wired for Profit,” two leading guides on the integration of telecommunications technology into the built environment. He developed the first model license agreements for access to buildings and rooftops to promote cooperative relations between telecommunications service providers and property owners, while protecting both parties’ interests. He has facilitated the negotiations on some of the leading cable franchise and small cell agreements in the nation.

Gerry advocates for public and private property owners regarding issues of law and policy arising from
federal and state communications legislation and regulation. Gerry serves as legislative counsel and lead Washington advocate for TeleCommUnity, a collection of local governments dedicated to ensuring respect for local rights in federal legislative and regulatory activity. He has also led numerous FCC coalitions of local governments on cable and wireless regulations.

Since arriving in Washington, D.C. in 1985 as the City of Philadelphia’s Washington advocate, Gerry has served as Washington legislative counsel to a number of local governments and agencies, including as lead advocate for local governments on infrastructure issues and as general counsel of the United States Conference of Mayors. He has also served as executive director of advocacy and research advancement for the Building Owners and Managers Association, International and executive director of government affairs for the United States Telephone Association. Prior to his career in Washington, he served as the chief deputy city commissioner for the City of Philadelphia. This position oversees the city’s voter registration and election day. He is a member of the Federal Communications Bar Association and the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors from him he has received numerous Ovation Awards and was the 2011 NATOA Member of the Year.

Gerry holds a B.A. from Haverford College and a J.D. from Temple University Beasley School of Law.

Dr. Nicol Turner-Lee, Brookings Institution

Dr. Nicol Turner Lee is a fellow in the program’s Center for Technology Innovation and a contributor to TechTank. She comes to Brookings from the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC), a national non-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecommunications, and broadband industries, where she served as vice president and chief research and policy officer. In this role, she led the design and implementation of their research, policy, and advocacy agendas. Her most recent White Papers at MMTC included, “A Lifeline to High-Speed Internet Access: An Economic Analysis of Administrative Costs and the Impact on Consumers” (March 2016), “Guarding Against Data Discrimination in the Internet of Everything” (September 2015), “Refocusing Broadband Policy: The New Opportunity Agenda for People of Color” (November 2013). Prior to joining MMTC, Dr. Turner Lee was vice president and the first director of the Media and Technology Institute at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, the nation’s leading think tank on issues related to African Americans and other people of color. In this role, she led the technology research agenda that was focused on advancing digital equity and inclusion for historically disadvantaged populations. Her most notable work was her development of the first national minority broadband adoption study in 2009 that was later cited in the congressionally mandated Federal Communications Commission’s National Broadband Plan. Her other publications there included, “Minorities, Mobile Broadband, and the Management of Chronic Diseases” (April 2012), co-authored with Dr. Brian Smedley and Joseph Miller; “Place Matters: The Debate over Broadband Availability” (2011); and, “Increasing Civic Engagement in the Digital Age” (2010) which was published by the Federal Communications Commission Law Journal. In addition to these and other publications, Dr. Turner Lee has been cited in the New York Times, Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, Communications Daily, Multichannel News, Washington Informer, among other print and online publications. She is also a widely sought expert and speaker on issues related to communications policies in media and at conferences, and she has testified before Congress. Dr. Turner Lee was a two-time Digital Research Program Scholar as part of Time Warner Cable’s Cable Research Program in
Communications and recipient of countless recognitions, including the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rainbow PUSH Coalition (2015) and one of the Most Inspiring Women in Media from the Alliance of Women in Media (2014). At the Center for Technology Innovation, Dr. Turner Lee researches public policy designed to enable equitable access to technology across the U.S. and to harness its power to create change in communities across the world. Dr. Turner-Lee’s research also explores global and domestic broadband deployment, regulatory, and internet governance issues. She is also an expert on the intersection of race, wealth, and technology within the context of civic engagement, criminal justice, and economic development. Dr. Turner Lee graduated from Colgate University magna cum laude and has a M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from Northwestern University. She also holds a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from the University of Illinois-Chicago. Dr. Turner-Lee is a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Gender Equity in Science and Technology at Arizona State University. She also serves on the U.S. State Department’s Advisory Committee on International Communications and Information Policy (ACICIP). In her free time, Dr. Turner Lee is active on the boards of various nonprofit organizations, including the Telecommunications Policy Research Conference (TPRC), the Washington Literacy Center, and STEM4US, which is committed to advancing diversity in the technology fields.

Grant Seiffert, Wireless Infrastructure Association

Grant Seiffert is the Vice President of Workforce Development and Executive Director of Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program (TIRAP). Prior to joining TIRAP, Mr. Seiffert served as President and CEO of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) for nine years. His experience government also includes five years as a senior aide to Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.). He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from Radford University, where he served as vice president of his sophomore class and as a senator in student government for three years. Mr. Seiffert also currently serves on the Board of Directors for Connected Nation and on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Advisory Council (NAC).

TIRAP was developed based on a four-phase approach to employer registration of apprenticeship programs and has secured commitments from 23 employers to initiate registered apprenticeship programs. Since May 2017, these employers have registered nearly 1,600 apprentices.

Mr. Seiffert also oversees the Telecommunications Education Center (TEC), a dynamic learning program intended to train the wireless workforce of the future. In order to meet the demands of 5G, the workforce needs to be trained to design, install and monitor next-generation networks. TEC seeks to meet this challenge by improving education, quality of work standards and safety within the telecommunications industry. Mr. Seiffert’s experience in direct training and education will be an asset for this working group.

Michael J. Santorelli

Director, Advanced Communications Law & Policy Institute

New York Law School
Michael Santorelli is a Director of the Advanced Communications Law & Policy Institute (ACLP) at New York Law School. In that capacity, he oversees the ACLP’s research and analysis of the array of legal, regulatory, and public policy issues impacting broadband connectivity.

Michael regularly serves as a resource to federal, state, and local policymakers. He is currently a member of the FCC’s Consumer Advisory Committee. Previously, he served on the FCC’s Removing State and Local Regulatory Barriers to Broadband Deployment Working Group, which worked with the Commission’s Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC). Michael has also served on the New York State Broadband Task Force and on similar initiatives in New York City, including as an organizer of the Digital Equity, Adoption & Literacy (DEAL) Coalition. Immediately prior to joining the ACLP, Michael was the lead staffer for the New York City Council’s Committee on Technology.

Michael received his undergraduate degree, with honors, from Tufts University, and his law degree, with honors, from New York Law School.