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Special Bulletin to Broadcasters

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FCC Issues Revised Edition of "The Public and Broadcasting"

The FCC has released the long-awaited revised edition of *"The Public and Broadcasting"* manual, dated June 1999. Under the Commission's public inspection file rule, a copy of this document must be kept in the public inspection file of each applicant for, permittee of, or licensee of, a broadcast facility, whether commercial or noncommercial. In addition, the FCC requires that copies of the publication be provided free of charge to any member of the public requesting one.

The term "free of charge" means: (1) no station can charge for photocopying the manual; and (2) stations which maintain their public inspection files outside their communities of license cannot charge for mailing a copy to those located within the station's geographic service area who request a copy to be mailed. Stations that maintain their public inspection files within their communities of license need not mail copies to those requesting them. If they do so voluntarily, they may charge for the postage.

The last edition of the manual was published by the FCC in 1974. Copies of the 1974 edition should now be discarded and the June 1999 edition put in its place. The new manual is available on the firm website on the page entitled *"The Latest from Washington."* Those clients wishing to have a hard copy sent to them should contact the firm.

All clients should place a copy of the manual immediately in their public inspection file. In addition, it may be prudent to keep a number of copies of the

publication on hand to fulfill any requests from the public for a copy of the manual.

It is also important to note that the Commission's Mass Media Bureau has stated its intent to update the manual periodically, although no precise timeframe has been announced for such updates. We will of course notify our clients as such revisions occur. For more information on the manual, please contact the firm.

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