

## Michele C. Farquhar

Partner

Washington, D.C.

### Biography

Years of government, industry, and law firm service have shaped Michele Farquhar into an influential advisor, advocate, and thought leader for the technology, media, and telecoms industry. She helps clients with a range of global and U.S. communications policy initiatives, spectrum auctions, licensing and compliance matters, and regulatory strategy involving M&A transactions as well as litigation.

Michele obtains regulatory approvals, waivers, and other licenses for many new and cutting-edge technologies. And she leads teams advising major global companies on regulatory strategy issues involving a range of international jurisdictions. As a legal authority in her industry, she also speaks and writes extensively on a range of communications issues.

Michele joined the firm in 1997, after serving as Chief of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. While at the FCC, she led the agency's new spectrum auction initiative and held primary responsibility over several major auctions and spectrum policy initiatives, as well as the bureau's implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Previously, Michele served as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary and Chief of Staff for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce. She played a lead role in developing the administration's positions on



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### Practices

Administrative and Public Law

Communications, Internet, and Media

Government Relations and Public Affairs

Securities and Public Company Advisory

Space and Satellite

Transportation

Corporate Governance and Public Company Representation

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### Industries

Technology and Telecoms

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telecommunications reform as well as spectrum, international, electronic commerce, and other policy issues.

As Vice President for Law and Regulatory Policy at the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association, she gained industry knowledge and regulatory advocacy experience while representing cellular carriers on regulatory, policy, and legal issues before the FCC. Michele also served as senior legal advisor to FCC Commissioner Ervin Duggan and as the mass media advisor to two FCC general counsels.

## Representative experience

Successfully led a coalition of wireless carriers and public interest groups in achieving interoperability for the 700 MHz spectrum band.

Obtained many pivotal FCC licenses, waivers, and Team Telecom approvals for new technologies, such as air-to-ground and positive train control.

Assisted wireless carriers and new entrants, including a major coalition of cable companies, in acquiring licenses in FCC spectrum auctions.

Successfully assisted clients in policy rulemaking proceedings, including drafting comments and meeting w/ FCC, FTC, NTIA, and Capitol Hill officials.

Assisted clients with the regulatory approval process for mergers and license transfers, including strategy, applications, and FCC and DOJ meetings.

Advise large global clients on telecom/tech licensing requirements in a range of international jurisdictions, and secured Team Telecom approvals.

Advised major clients and coalitions on litigation and regulatory strategy for key telecom and technology initiatives, including U.S. expansion.

Assisted clients with major compliance reviews and initiatives, as well as enforcement matters.

## Awards and rankings

## Areas of focus

Telecommunications and Wireline

Wireless

Networks and Platforms

Broadband, Internet, and E-commerce

Infrastructure and Equipment

Communications Compliance and Enforcement

Consumer Protection and Privacy

Transportation, Utilities, and Public Safety

Legislation

Foreign Government Representation

Automotive Regulatory

Rail

Spectrum

Media and Entertainment

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## Education and admissions

### Education

J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 1984

B.A., Duke University, magna cum laude, 1979

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## Memberships

Board Member, Visitors of St. John's College

Former President, Land Mobile Communications Council

Member, Board of Trustees of Duke University, 1997-1999

- Telecom, Broadcast & Satellite (District of Columbia), Rank 1, *Chambers USA*, 2006-2024
- Media, Technology, and Telecoms: Technology Transactions, *Legal 500 US*, 2016-2024
- Media, Technology, and Telecoms: Telecoms and Broadcast: Transactional, *Legal 500 US*, 2010-2011, 2014-2020
- Media, Technology, and Telecoms: Telecoms and Broadcast: Regulatory, Hall of Fame, *Legal 500 US*, 2020-2024
- Media, Technology, and Telecoms: Telecoms and Broadcast: Regulatory, Leading Lawyer, *Legal 500 US*, 2015-2019
- Media, Technology, and Telecoms: Telecoms and Broadcast: Regulatory, Recommended, *Legal 500 US*, 2007-2014
- Communications, *Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers*, 2008-2016
- Washington, D.C. Administrative / Regulatory Law Lawyer of the Year, *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2018
- Administrative/Regulatory Law, *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2007-2018
- Administrative Law, *Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers*, 2013-2016
- Top 50 Women, *Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers*, 2015
- ICFM 100 Leading Female Lawyers, *InterContinental Finance Magazine*, 2014
- Regulatory Communications, *Who's Who Legal 100*, 2013
- Washington's Top Lawyers: Telecoms, *Washingtonian*, 2009, 2011
- Top Attorneys in Intellectual Property, Franchise and Dealership, Information Technology, Communications, and Civil Litigation Defense, *Super Lawyers, Corporate Counsel Edition*, 2008
- Communications and IT Section, *PLC Which Lawyer? Yearbook*, 2006-2008

Member, D.C. Bar Steering Committee on Administrative Law and Agency Practice, 2014-present  
 President, Duke University Alumni Association, 1997-1998  
 President, Federal Communications Bar Association, 2005-2006

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## Bar admissions and qualifications

District of Columbia  
 California (inactive)

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## Accolades

"Michele Farquhar has an extensive background in communications work. In a standout mandate, she assisted Gogo with obtaining FCC approval for its provision of internet access to customers on commercial flights."

*Chambers, 2014*

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"She is praised for skill in regulatory matters and dealing with the FCC, with one source noting that she knows 'who the key decision makers are.'"

*Chambers, District of Columbia Telecom, Broadcast & Satellite 2015*

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- International Who's Who of Regulatory Communications Lawyers, 2008
- Distinguished Service Award, *Federal Communications Bar Association*, 1991, 2000
- Duke University Alumni Service Award, 1992

## Latest thinking and events

- News
  - Remaining Team Telecom rules—including standard questions—now in effect at the FCC
- News
  - Hogan Lovells Communications practice recognized in top Chambers Band 1 ranking
- News
  - FCC signals broader agenda on national security, public safety, and more in Net Neutrality ruling
- News
  - FCC initiates proceeding to explore diversity in independent video programming
- News
  - Hogan Lovells CES 2023 Recap
- Media mention
  - 4 DC Firm Leaders Share Their 2023 Priorities