

August 4 – Telecom – TC3 “First Net”

SPEAKER BIOS

Barry Fraser has served as General Manager for the San Francisco Bay Area Interoperable Regional Communications Systems Authority (BayRICS) since it was established in August 2011. Barry is responsible for planning and coordination of advanced public safety communications systems across seven Bay Area counties, including regional planning to launch the FirstNet nationwide public safety broadband network. From 2007-2011, Barry worked for the City and County of San Francisco Department of Emergency Management and Department of Technology, where his primary focus was broadband deployment and adoption, including public safety wireless broadband. From 1998-2007 Barry worked for the County of San Diego as cable franchise administrator.

Barry is a member of the FirstNet Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) where he currently chairs the PSAC’s Local Control task group. He has also served on various PSAC task groups and participates on broadband working groups for several national associations. Barry served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) from 2008-2011, and currently Chairs NATOA’s Public Safety-Homeland Security Committee.

Barry holds a MA degree in Radio and Television from San Diego State University and a JD degree from the University of San Diego School Of Law. He is an active member of the California Bar.

Gerard Lavery Lederer is a partner in Best Best & Krieger LLP’s Municipal Law practice group in the firm’s Washington, D.C. office. Prior to joining the firm in 2011, he was an attorney with Miller & Van Eaton, a nationally-recognized telecommunications law firm.

Mr. Lederer serves as legislative counsel to TeleCommUnity, a collection of local governments dedicated to ensuring respect for local rights in federal legislative activity. Lederer is a well-known advocate for public and private property owners regarding issues of law and policy arising from federal and state communications legislation and regulation. He is also one of the nation’s leading experts on marketplace solutions for the integration of technology into commercial real estate. Mr. Lederer is the author of *Critical Connections* and *Wired for Profit*, two leading guides on the integration of telecommunications technology into office buildings. He developed the first model license agreements for access to buildings and rooftops to help telecommunications service providers and property owners protect their interests.

Mr. Lederer has served as executive director of advocacy and research advancement for the Building Owners and Managers Association, International (BOMA); executive director of government affairs for the United States Telephone Association; and general counsel of the United States Conference of Mayors and Chief Deputy City Commissioner of the City of Philadelphia. He is a member of the Federal Communications Bar Association.

Mr. Lederer is admitted to practice in the State of New Jersey and the District of Columbia, and is an inactive member of the bar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He received his law degree, *with honors*, from Temple University School of Law and his undergraduate degree, also *with honors*, from Haverford College.

MODERATOR:

Michael J. Watza is Co-Chair of the Governmental and Commercial Litigation Practice Groups at Kitch, a full service Law firm based in Detroit, with offices in Lansing, Marquette, Mt. Clemens, Chicago, Ill. and Toledo, OH.

Mr. Watza's practice provides litigated, legislative and regulatory solutions on behalf of municipal, health care and private sector clients concerning legislation, Complex Litigation, Governance Issues, Telecommunications including Cable and Cell Towers, Energy and Insurance.

Michael has managed multiple legislative initiatives, represented clients in State and Federal trial and appellate courts across Michigan as well as attended to regulatory matters before the Michigan Public Service Commission, Michigan Tax Tribunal, Department of Labor and Economic Growth and the FCC and US DOT/PHSMA.

Michael has represented clients in the halls of the Michigan Legislature and Congress through negotiation, drafting and testimony regarding legislation on various issues including energy, transmission line siting, telecommunications (cable and cell towers), pipeline regulation, the formation of inter-governmental authorities and tort reform.

Michael also serves as General Counsel to PROTEC and the Mobile Technology Association of Michigan, Special Projects Counsel to the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority, and Board member to the Michigan Gaming Control Board, Covenant House Central School Board in Detroit, Chairman of the Novi EDC, Chairman of Attorney Grievance Commission Grievance Panel #9, Immediate Past Chairman of the Administrative Law Section of the State Bar and Vice Chair of the Public Corporation Law Section of the State Bar and Chairman of the International Municipal Lawyers Technology Committee.

Michael is an adjunct faculty member at Michigan State University College of Law teaching Communications Law & Policy and Ethics and the Practice of Law.

In 2008, Michael successfully opposed Comcast's effort to move PEG channels to 900 digital channel range.

Since 2013, Michael is actively providing the legal components to the development of the 1st new Municipal Fiber to the home and business (FTTH) projects in Sebawaing, Marshall and several other communities across Michigan, as well as leading the defense of Rts of Way in the current DAS Siting Issues across Michigan.