



NEW AMERICA  
FOUNDATION

**From TV to Public Safety**  
*Do We Need Incremental or Fundamental Reform in Public Safety  
Spectrum and Communications Policy?*

October 26, 2006 • 12:15pm – 1:45pm

**PANELIST BIOS**

**JON M. PEHA**

*Associate Director, Center for Wireless Broadband Networking  
Professor, Engineering and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University*

Jon Peha's research addresses social and policy issues that are inseparable from the technological evolution of computer and telecommunications networks. One such area is wireless systems. The allocation and regulation of radio spectrum affects the evolution of technology, possibly determining whether novel services and technologies will emerge, and the extent of competition, standardization, and mutual interference.

In the area of electronic commerce, Professor Peha has investigated payment system technology and the complexities of bringing financial services to people without bank accounts, enforcing tax law on electronic commerce, protecting privacy, enhancing security, and combating fraud.

Peha also does research on integrated-services networks, which simultaneously carry voice, video, and computer traffic. This technology blurs the distinction between telephone networks, cable TV, and the Internet, which face radically different regulation. The resulting services, prices, and industry structure depend on the complex interplay between technology and policy.

Another critical issue is bringing the benefits of information technology to everyone. Peha's research addresses telecommunications issues in developing countries, like serving rural and low-income areas with little installed infrastructure. Reaching schools, community centers, libraries, and health care providers is also important in both the US and developing countries.

**MORGAN O'BRIEN**

*CEO, Cyren Call Communications  
Co-founder, Nextel Communications*

Morgan O'Brien is a co-founder and Chairman and CEO of Cyren Call Communications, a new venture seeking to create a nationwide, seamless, ultra-broadband network for public safety communications.

O'Brien was the co-founder of Nextel Communications, Inc. in 1987 and served as its Chairman from 1987 to 1995 and vice-chairman until its merger with Sprint Communications in 2005. A pioneer who has shaped the wireless industry and changed the way Americans communicate, O'Brien was honored by RCR Wireless News and inducted into the Wireless Hall of Fame. Along with Nextel co-founder Brian McAuley, Mr. O'Brien helped transform the SMR industry into a major wireless player.

O'Brien began his career as a lawyer with the Mobile Services Division of the FCC in 1970 where he assisted in establishing the rules and procedures for all land mobile services. Later, O'Brien practiced communications law and from 1986 to 1990 was the Partner-in-Charge of the telecommunications practice at Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue.

Known for his innovation and willingness to take risks, O'Brien was recognized in 1987 as New Jersey Entrepreneur of the Year and in 1993 he was voted the RCR Person of the Year. Recently he was inducted into the Washington Business Hall of Fame.

O'Brien's interests extend to his support of community. He currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Field School in Washington, DC and as a member of the Law Board of Northwestern University School of Law. O'Brien is married to Belle Brooks O'Brien and has two sons, Brooks and Aidan.

O'Brien received an AB in Classical Studies from Georgetown University and a law degree from Northwestern University.

**MICHAEL I. GOTTDENKER**

*CEO, Access Spectrum, LLC*

Michael Gottdenker is Chairman & Chief Executive officer of Access Spectrum, LLC, an FCC-licensed band manager with spectrum holdings in the 700 MHz and 220 MHz bands.

Prior to the formation of Access Spectrum in March of 2001, Mr. Gottdenker served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Commonwealth Telephone Enterprises, Inc., a publicly-traded provider of local telephone service in portions of rural Pennsylvania. Under Mr. Gottdenker's leadership, Commonwealth became one of the nation's most dynamic and fastest growing independent telephone companies.

Previously, Mr. Gottdenker worked at Revlon Consumer Products Corporation and as an investment banker in the Corporate Finance and Real Estate Finance departments of Salomon Brothers Inc.

In addition to serving on the Board of Access Spectrum, Mr. Gottdenker currently serves on the Board of Global Energy Decisions, LLC.

Mr. Gottdenker received a BA degree in Economics and Computer Science from Columbia University in 1986.

**DAVID K. AYLWARD**

*Director, COMCARE Emergency Response Alliance*

David Aylward is a founder and Director of COMCARE, a diverse, 100-organization non-profit alliance committed to improving emergency response, in part through the use of modern, interoperable communications and information tools. It is currently involved in a wide variety of emergency response projects funded by its members and various state and federal agencies. COMCARE's organizational members represent the wide diversity of the emergency response community. It encourages cooperation across professional, jurisdictional and geographic lines, seeking to improve effectiveness bridging the gaps that separate government, the public, private industry, and emergency professions. It promotes the adoption of modern, interoperable emergency systems and the development of new procedures, training and tools to maximize their value for emergency responders.

Mr. Aylward is also President of National Strategies, Inc. which he helped found in 1985, following eight years of service on the staff of the U.S. House of Representatives. From 1981 to 1985, Mr. Aylward was Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the U.S. House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Consumer Protection and Finance, which had jurisdiction over the US communications and securities industries, and a variety of federal consumer protection legislation, including automobile safety. In the 1970's he practiced contracts law with the firm of Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue. Mr. Aylward held senior positions in two presidential campaigns, and managed four congressional election campaigns. He received a BA from Dartmouth College in 1971, where he was Editor in Chief of the daily newspaper, and a JD with High Honors from The National Law Center of The George Washington University in 1976, where he also served on the Law Review. He is married with three children and six grandchildren.

**ROBERT LEGRANDE**

*Chair, Spectrum Coalition for Public Safety and  
Deputy CTO, District of Columbia*

Robert LeGrande, II is a seasoned IT professional with a diverse history of executive level managerial experience in both the corporate and municipal arenas. His unique career trajectory has afforded him the opportunity to demonstrate proficiencies in operational and financial management; program design and implementation; project and account management; and, sales and marketing.

Mr. LeGrande currently serves as Deputy Chief Technology Officer for the municipal government of the District of Columbia. In this capacity, he provides leadership for the city's Wireless Network Operations, Human Services Modernization Program, Citywide Credentialing and the National Capitol Region's Interoperable Communications Program.

Under his direction, the nation's first city-wide broadband wireless network for first responders has been implemented. This pilot network serves as a testbed for how applications can be shared securely among public safety agencies and provides insight to key requirements and operational issues regarding broadband technology. Similarly, the Human Services Modernization Program will upgrade and integrate IT applications across human services agencies throughout the District of Columbia.

The objective of the Public Safety Wireless High Speed Data Network Program is to construct a broadband wireless network using licensed dedicated spectrum to provide city-wide access to mission critical applications. To forward this effort, Mr. LeGrande spearheaded the creation of the Spectrum Coalition for Public Safety to secure additional 700MHz spectrum for public safety communications. He and his team are actively working with legislators to achieve this goal.

Mr. LeGrande holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Clark Atlanta University, where he studied Physics with a minor in Mathematics.

**MICHAEL CALABRESE**

*Vice President & Director, Wireless Future Program  
New America Foundation*

Michael Calabrese is Vice President and Director of the Wireless Future Program at the New America Foundation, a non-profit think tank based in Washington, D.C. He oversees the Foundation's efforts to improve our nation's management of publicly-owned assets – particularly the public airwaves. New America has advocated open, unlicensed access to an increasing share of the airwaves to facilitate innovation and more affordable and ubiquitous community wireless broadband access. With respect to spectrum licensing, the Program opposes permanent private property rights in frequencies, advocating instead completely flexible license rights for a limited period and compensation for the public based on modest annual user fees by all commercial users, rather than one-time auction payments. New America has supported earmarking spectrum revenue to finance the digital future of non-commercial public service media and for e-learning R&D.

Previously, Mr. Calabrese served as General Counsel of the Congressional Joint Economic Committee and as benefits counsel at the national AFL-CIO. He is the co-author of three previous books on policy and politics and has published opinion articles in the nation's leading outlets, including The Atlantic Monthly, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times. He is a graduate of Stanford Business and Law Schools, where he earned a JD/MBA degree; and a graduate of Harvard College, where he earned a B.A. in Economics and Government.