

1970

FCC rules prohibit telco ownership of cable systems in their own service area. (21 FCC 2d 307, *aff'd*, 449 FCC 2d 846 (5th Cir. 1971))

FCC prohibits cable systems ownership by national television networks or TV stations in the cable system's area. (23 FCC 2d 816)

The FCC adopts "anti-siphoning" rules to protect programming on broadcast TV (23 FCC 2d 825)

1971

The FCC preempts local authorities from regulating pay TV on cable systems. It also stays its local origination rule in response to a court decision that it did not have power to impose the requirement.

1971

The Eighth Circuit holds the FCC could not require local origination. (*United States v. Midwest Video Corp.*, 441 F.2d 1322 (8th Cir.))

1972

The FCC issues new and wide-ranging rules governing cable TV. Provisions include distant signal importation, program exclusivity, public access and technical requirements. (Cable Television Report and Order, 36 FCC 2d 143, *aff'd*, 523 F.2d 1244 (9th Cir. 1975))

1972

The U.S. Supreme Court overturns an appellate court ruling in favor of the FCC's local origination rules but reaffirms FCC authority over cable. (*United States v. Midwest Video Corp.* (Midwest Video I), 406 U.S. 649)

1973

The FCC approves applications to establish domestic communications satellites, a crucial link in cable program distribution.

1973

Congress passes anti-blackout legislation which requires that sold-out games in pro football, baseball, basketball and hockey be made available for over the air TV, rather than cable or pay TV.

1974

The FCC rescinds its local origination rule after continuing its stay of rule since 1971, despite the Supreme Court's 1972 decision giving the Commission the power to impose the rule, but requires operators to buy and maintain local origination equipment for community use. (49 FCC 2d 1090)

1976

FCC repeals distant signal "leapfrogging" rules, allowing cable systems to import signals as they choose. (Selection of Television Signals, 57 FCC 2d 625)

1976

The Copyright Revision Act is passed by Congress. It establishes a "compulsory license" allowing cable systems to retransmit broadcast stations and sets fee schedules for carrying distant signals for the first time. The cable operator is liable for copyright payments. (17 U.S.C. 101-118)

1977

The FCC approves the use of 4.5 meter earth station receivers. The ruling permits more cable systems to acquire the equipment necessary to receive nationally distributed programming via satellite. (American Broadcasting Inc., 62 FCC 2d 901)

1977

U.S. Court of Appeals strikes down FCC rules limiting pay TV, opening the way for expanded cable services. It also suggests that cable may have some First Amendment rights. (*Home Box Office v. FCC*, 567 F.2d (D.C. Cir.) *cert. denied*, 434 U.S. 329)

1978

Congress passes a Pole Attachment Act which establishes a national policy for attaching cable wires to poles owned by utility companies.

A federal appellate court affirms the FCC's preemption of local control over pay TV. (*Brookhaven Cable TV v. Kelly*, 573 F.2d 765 (2d Cir.), *cert. denied*, 441 U.S.924 (1979))

1978

The FCC institutes registration for cable systems and reaffirms EEO requirements. (69 FCC 2d 697, 69 FCC 2d 1324)

1979

The U.S. Supreme Court rejects PEG and local access requirements. (*United States v. Midwest Video Corp* (Midwest Video II), 440 U.S. 689)

1979

The FCC allows use of small earth stations without licenses, but also without protection from interference. (Regulation of Domestic Receive-Only Satellite Earth Stations, 74 FCC 2d 205)