

Partner

William M. Wiltshire

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PRACTICES

Telecom

Corporate and
Commercial
Transactions

Satellite + Commercial
Space

Transactions

EDUCATION

University of Virginia
School of Law, J.D.

Princeton University,
B.A., summa cum laude

Bill Wiltshire, co-founder of HWG, provides strategic, regulatory, and transactional advice to satellite, media, communications, and other high-tech companies.

Drawing upon years of experience in both litigation and regulatory contexts, Bill is able to present legally and technologically complex issues in a way that is both compelling and understandable to decision makers.

Bill provides advice and representation ranging from specific matters of strategic significance to ongoing day-to-day compliance with regulatory requirements. He assists his clients in the development and presentation of positions in policy and rulemaking proceedings before the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and has broad experience representing both those applying for FCC licenses and those seeking to deny or condition such licenses.

Bill has substantial experience advising companies on the impact of regulation on corporate and commercial transactions, including mergers, acquisitions, and financings. He has been involved in helping to structure a wide variety of transactions to accomplish client goals while meeting regulatory requirements. In many cases, such transactions involve representing parties that must obtain FCC approval for the transfer of licenses, performing regulatory due diligence, crafting FCC application strategy, and prosecuting the application through final FCC approval. These representations sometimes also entail complementary efforts before the U.S. Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission, Congress, and the Executive Branch.

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Bill advises foreign investors and financial institutions on compliance with the foreign ownership limitations established in the Communications Act of 1934, as implemented and interpreted by the FCC. While at the FCC, Bill spearheaded the investigation into the foreign ownership of Fox Network that resulted in a landmark decision clarifying limitations on foreign equity and debt holdings. Since leaving the FCC, Bill has advised and represented foreign companies and financial institutions interested in acquiring an interest in broadcast, satellite, and common carrier licensees.

Bill began his legal career as a litigator, where he handled commercial, constitutional, and criminal matters in a number of federal, state, and administrative courts. He next joined the FCC, where he served as Senior Legal Advisor to the Chief of the International Bureau and Special Counsel to the Chief of the Mass Media Bureau, in which positions he advised the Bureau Chiefs and the FCC Chairman on a wide range of legal and policy matters. Upon leaving the FCC, Bill became a founding member of the communications practice group at an international firm, where he worked until founding his present firm in 1998.

Bill is recognized as a leading telecommunications lawyer in numerous publications, including *Chambers USA*, *Best Lawyers*, and *Super Lawyers*.

RECOGNITIONS

Chambers USA, Telecom, Broadcast & Satellite (DC)

Best Lawyers, Communications Law (DC)