

Partner

William M. Wiltshire

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wwiltshire@hwglaw.com



PRACTICES

Telecom

Corporate and Commercial Transactions

Satellite + Commercial Space

Transactions

Foreign Investment, National Security and Trade

Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies

EDUCATION

University of Virginia School of Law, J.D.

Law Review

Order of the Coif

Princeton University, B.A., summa cum laude

ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia

Virginia

Bill Wiltshire, co-founder of HWG LLP, 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 presents legally and technologically complex issues in a way that is both compelling and understandable to decision makers.

Bill offers strategic counsel and legal representation across a broad spectrum of regulatory matters, from high-stakes issues to routine compliance. He advises clients on developing and articulating positions in policy and rulemaking proceedings before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), with extensive experience representing both license applicants and parties seeking to oppose or condition such applications. In addition, Bill advises companies on the regulatory aspects of corporate and commercial transactions including mergers, acquisitions, and financings and has played a key role in structuring transactions to meet client goals while navigating applicable regulatory requirements.

In many cases, Bill represents parties requiring FCC approval for license transfers, providing support that includes:

- Conducting regulatory due diligence;
- Crafting FCC application strategies;
- Prosecuting applications through final FCC approval; and
- Coordinating with other agencies such as the U.S. Department of Justice, Congress, and the Executive Branch when necessary.

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He also advises foreign investors and financial institutions on compliance with the foreign ownership limitations set forth in the Communications Act of 1934, as implemented and interpreted by the FCC.

Bill began his legal career as a litigator, handling commercial, constitutional, and criminal matters across federal, state, and administrative courts. He later 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, advising senior leadership on a range of legal and policy issues. While at the FCC, he led the investigation into the foreign ownership of Fox Network, resulting in a landmark decision that clarified limitations on foreign equity and debt holdings.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Secured the first FCC authorization to provide services directly to standard mobile handsets from the next generation non-geostationary orbit (NGSO) constellation to provide ubiquitous, high-speed broadband service to users in the U.S. and around the world where terrestrial mobile networks are not available on behalf of the largest satellite operator globally.
- Advised a video programming distributor on regulatory and strategy issues involved in its negotiations to acquire a satellite television business, which would have created the largest multichannel video service in the U.S. and given the combined entity the scale needed to incentivize programmers to allow smaller packages at lower price points and in combination with other programming sources on a single platform.
- Advised a video programming distributor on regulatory and strategy issues involved in negotiations surrounding a private equity firm's acquisition of the remaining 70% stake in the distributor it did not already own, consolidating ownership of the company and enabling it to invest in new capabilities to strengthen its core video offerings.
- Advised a leading alternative investment firm specializing in infrastructure and real assets on federal, state, and local regulatory and strategy issues involved in its \$8.1 billion acquisition of the sixth largest cable operator in the United States.
- Secured authorizations from the Federal Communications Commission for the two largest NGSO constellations ever proposed.

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- Provided ongoing insight to private equity firms in connection with various proposed transactions pending before the Federal Communications Commission.

RECOGNITION

- Selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® for Communications Law (2006 - present)
 - Lawyer of the Year, Communications (2016)
- Ranked in Chambers USA for DC: Telecom, Broadcast & Satellite (2004 - present)
- Named to the Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers list for Communications (2009 - 2020, 2022 - present)

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Professional Affiliations

- Federal Communications Bar Association (1998 - present)
 - Transactional Practice Committee, Co-Chair (2015 - 2017)

Firm Involvement

- HWG Managing Partner (2016 - 2023)