

TEXT/LECTURE QUESTIONS (COMMUNICATIONS ACTS)

1. Know these and what was addressed in each:
 - a. Berlin Acts (1903/1910)
 - b. Wireless Ship Act of 1910
 - c. Radio Act of 1912

2. Early broadcast licensing:
 - a. What government official issued licenses?
 - i. What requirements could be placed on broadcaster? (Example: time of operation)
 - b. What were the duration of those licenses?
 - c. What is meant by non-discretionary licensing, and why was this a problem?

3. Radio Act of 1927
 - a. What was happening to the infant broadcast industry prior to the 1927 Act that led to that act?
 - i. Don't forget the significance of the Zenith case (1926)
 - b. What was that Act intended to remedy?
 - c. What was the name of the new administrative agency created by the act?
 - d. Other salient points:
 - i. the term: *broadcasting*
 - ii. "public interest, convenience and necessity" language
 - iii. 1st Amendment

4. Communications Act of 1934
 - a. Why did we need another act after 1927?
 - b. What was the congressional desire leading into the Communications Act of 1934?
 - c. Other important points to consider for 1934:
 - i. creation of FCC
 - ii. elevated public trust responsibility
 - iii. licensing changes (qualification/renewals)
 - iv. Sec. 315 (political advertising)
 - v. Sec. 326 (censorship)

5. Telecommunications Act of 1996
 - a. What changes occurred in this act from 1934? consider:
 - b. ownership
 - c. networks
 - d. license terms
 - e. rating system and V-chip
 - f. Communications Decency Act

6. What do some of these changes suggest about the nature of evidencing that a licensee meets the public's interest?