



Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council

Press Statement

Contact: Marcella Gadson, Director of Communications
mgadson@mmtconline.org (305) 799-2130

Court Issues Partial Stay on FCC Ruling to Cap Predatory Inmate Calling Rates; Rates Are ‘Tax on Pain’ on Incarcerated and Families

Washington, DC (March 10, 2016): The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit issued a partial stay that prevents the Federal Communications Commission’s inmate calling caps from going into effect. The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) is concerned that the court’s decision to stay will delay relief from the high calling rates imposed on inmates and their families.

“While the court’s decision approved reforms to other ancillary fees that were equally punitive for these families, the overall continued tax on the pain of these individuals continues to be both excessive and inherently unjust,” stated MMTC President and CEO Kim Keenan. “Until this issue is fully resolved, the incarcerated, their families, and the professionals who support them will continue to pay steep telephone fees for a broken system that should have been fixed decades ago. Our hope is that this issue will be quickly resolved.”

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About MMTC:

The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) is a non-partisan, national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecommunications and broadband industries, and closing the digital divide. MMTC is generally recognized as the nation’s leading advocate for minority advancement in communications.