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Robert Branson, Former FCC, Industry and Bar Association Leader Takes the Reins of MMTC as President and CEO Maurita Coley Retires

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 1, 2021): The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) announced today that Robert E. Branson, former Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and media and telecom industry lawyer, and former president of the Federal Communications Bar Association, has become its President and CEO.

“We are confident that MMTC will be even stronger and more resilient than ever before under the leadership of Robert ‘Bob’ Branson, a well-known and respected public servant and telecommunications lawyer whom I greatly admire,” stated MMTC Board Chair and Treasurer Ronald Johnson. “Given President Branson’s many years of service in government and in the private sector public and private entities, he is the perfect person to lead MMTC. We extend our deepest appreciation and many thanks to Maurita Coley who has, since 2012, served us admirably, with unparalleled integrity and transparency.”

“Bob Branson is an excellent choice to take on the reins as MMTC’s fourth president and CEO in MMTC’s 35th year,” stated MMTC’s President Emeritus and co-founder, David Honig. “He has the perfect blend of government and industry experience, and a demonstrated commitment to achieving diversity in the media, telecom, and tech industries and in the communications bar. I am honored to support his leadership as MMTC’s fourth president.”

“I am thrilled to join MMTC as its President and CEO and to build on its many years of first-rate advocacy to achieve diversity in the communications industries,” stated Branson. “I have valued MMTC as an organization and have been part of the family of MMTC for many years. In fact, in 2017, I was blessed to have been honored with the *Everett C. Parker Lifetime Achievement Award*, MMTC’s highest honor. It is my sincere pleasure to stand on the shoulders of MMTC’s prior leaders as we celebrate our 35th anniversary year. I am ready and eager to engage with this board, our funders and supporters to lead MMTC through the challenges ahead.”

Branson, a well-respected and well-known media and telecom lawyer, former Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff lawyer and senior legal advisor to a commissioner, and former communications bar association president, has a wide variety of experience in communications, strategic planning, minority business advocacy, and diversity and inclusion. His areas of expertise include broadcast, cable, telecom, tech, privacy, IoT, broadband, AI, spectrum, and infrastructure. Branson brings his unique perspective to MMTC, as someone who has worked inside and outside government and who has had a lifelong commitment to diversity and social justice issues.

Immediately prior to MMTC, Branson served as Of Counsel to Empire Consulting Group, a minority-led strategic business and public policy firm serving leading technology, wireless, cable and other industry clients. Prior to that, Branson was an Associate General Counsel with Verizon Communications where his key responsibilities included the 5G rollout in the Washington, DC area, privacy regulations, and relationship building with leaders in federal and state governments. He has been the General Counsel of the Association of Local Television Stations, Chief Legal Counsel of Post-Newsweek Stations and an Assistant General Counsel at the National Association of Broadcasters. Branson also has worked at the FCC in the Mass Media Bureau and as Senior Legal Advisor to former Commissioner Andrew C. Barrett. Branson is a past president and member of the executive committee of the Federal Communications Bar Association (FCBA) where he worked closely with many of the leaders of the Congress, FCC, NTIA, FTC and other federal agencies. A two-time recipient of the FCBA’s Distinguished Service Award, his efforts to champion diversity and inclusion in the FCBA led to an expansion

of its mentoring and inclusion programs and an increased commitment to support numerous professionals in the industry and government. In part based on his efforts to diversify the communications bar and champion the careers of next generation professionals, in 2017, Branson was awarded MMTC's *Everett C. Parker Lifetime Achievement Award*. He has served on the Board of Trustees of Simmons University in Boston and was named an Honorary Trustee after his service. Branson was a member of the Boards of the Ridley Scholarship Fund at the University of Virginia and the Hayride to Help Others in Washington, DC. He received his law degree from Harvard University and his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia.

Branson succeeds Maurita Coley, who has retired. Go [here](#) to read the press statement announcing Coley's retirement.

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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, telecom and broadband industries, and closing the digital divide. MMTC is generally recognized as the nation's leading advocate for minority advancement in communications. MMTC's vision is to achieve a fully connected, educated, healthy, and empowered society in which all communities thrive. Visit MMTC's website [here](#).