



→ Brian D. Weimer

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Brian Weimer is a leading FCC Lawyer, CFIUS Lawyer, and Space Lawyer. He is based in the firm's Washington, DC office where he has practiced law for decades.

Honors

Best Lawyers in America, *Best Lawyers*, 2014-2025

Recommended Lawyer, Telecoms and Broadcast (regulatory and transactional), *Legal 500 US*, 2010-2025

Washington, D.C. Super Lawyer, Communications, *Super Lawyers*, 2018-2024

Washington, D.C. Super Lawyer, *Super Lawyers*, 2018-2021

Recognized Practitioner, Telecommunications, *Chambers USA*, 2017-2021, 2024-2025

Experience

- Obtains market access and FCC licenses for space station operators, both GEO and Non-GEO.
- Advises companies on obtaining cable landing licenses and the regulatory issues presented by undersea cable companies.
- Advises satellite and wireless companies on regulatory proceedings impacting the value, uses, availability, and sharing of spectrum resources.
- Lobbies the FCC at the highest levels to achieve optimal outcomes for clients on their most important regulatory proceedings.
- Assists telecom companies navigate the myriad regulatory approvals necessary to consummate M&A deals, including Team Telecom and CFIUS.
- Secures special temporary authority and experimental licenses for telecom companies of all kinds.
- Prepares petitions for declaratory ruling to exceed foreign ownership benchmarks under the Communications Act.
- Obtains earth station licenses for satellite networks.
- Advises on regulatory aspects of business plans to assist fundraising efforts by start-up companies.
- Analyzes feasibility of foreign investment in telecom (and other) companies in light of strictures imposed by the Communications Act, Team Telecom, and CFIUS.
- Prepares applications for 214 authorization at the FCC and similar initiatives at the State level.

- Advises foreign companies on the need for and structuring of proxy companies in the U.S. to assist in obtaining specialized U.S. government contracts.
- Serves as a trusted advisor to founders and entrepreneurs in their most important strategic decisions as they relate to FCC, ITU, and market access actions around the world.
- Negotiates and drafts commercial contracts and M&A agreements for telecom companies.
- Advises companies through regulatory enforcement proceedings at the FCC and other federal agencies.
- Counsels telecom companies through restructuring efforts, including Chapter 11.
- Advises media and other telecom companies with all manner of regulatory requirements for their businesses.

Articles

- "Key Considerations in Hosted Payloads," *Satellite Finance*, November 14, 2016
- "Complying with Laws that Affect Domestic and International Telecommunications Businesses," *Inside the Minds: Recent Developments in Telecommunications Law*, (c) 2013 Aspatore Books from Thomson Reuters Westlaw. Reproduced by permission. To purchase the book and to see the full chapter, please click here.
- "Loosening Satellite Export Controls," *Law360*, May 4, 2012
- "Key Details of CFIUS 2010 Annual Report," *The Deal*, January 25, 2012
- "Foreign Investment in China's Telecommunications Industry: Current Opportunities, Potential Barriers, and Future Prospects," presented at the *18th Biennial Conference of the International Telecommunications Society*, June 28, 2010
- Periodic contributor to *Via Satellite* magazine, including *Twenty Years of Via Satellite: How the Commercial Satellite Industry Recaptured Public Attention*, 2006
- "The Year in Wireless Telecommunications 2005-2006," *24th Annual Institute on Telecommunications Policy & Regulation*, 2006
- "Legal Opinions in Corporate Transactions Affected by FCC Regulation: An Economic Approach," *51 Federal Communications Law Journal* 773, 1999

FCC Law Blog Posts

- "Ground Control to the FCC: GSaaS Order Ushers in a New Age for Space Communications," July 24, 2025
- "Closing Time: Hell, High Water, and Insights from the Delaware Chancery Court Decision in Desktop Metal v. Nano Dimension," April 9, 2025
- "ALERT: Delete, Delete, Delete—FCC Calls for Comment on Which Rules Should be Eliminated," March 19, 2025
- "America First Investment Policy: U.S. Foreign Investment Policy Evolves under Trump 2.0," February 27, 2025
- "ALERT: FCC Sets December 31, 2024 Deadline for Providers to Address Robocall Mitigation Database Deficiencies," December 17, 2024
- "FCC Cracks Down: Are You Ready for the Robocall Mitigation Compliance Blitz?," December 12, 2024
- "FCC Proposes New Rules Governing AI-Generated Robocalls," September 10, 2024
- "ALERT: Team Telecom Streamlining Procedures Take Effect," September 5, 2024

- "Burners and Backdoors: The FCC's \$16 Million Settlement with TracFone for Breaches of Customer-Facing APIs," July 31, 2024
- "Soil and Security: The Broadening Scope of CFIUS in Real Estate Transactions," July 24, 2024
- "Data Security Is National Security: Inside the FCC Enforcement Bureau's Latest Crackdown," July 11, 2024
- "Space Bureau Regulatory Fees Skyrocket in FY 2024," July 2, 2024
- "Know Thy Neighbor as Thyself: CFIUS Considerations in Commercial Real Estate Transactions," June 10, 2024
- "FCC to Strengthen Equipment Authorization Process to Protect U.S. National Security," May 24, 2024
- "Dialing Up Accountability: FCC's Warning Shot to Mobile Network Operators on CPNI," May 14, 2024
- "With Net Neutrality Order, FCC Grants Broadband-Only ISPs New Pole Attachment Protections," May 6, 2024
- "Treasury Department Proposes to Sharpen the Teeth of CFIUS Enforcement," April 23, 2024
- "Enforcement Advisory: The FCC's Enforcement Bureau Continues to Closely Review Provider Compliance with Affordable Connective Program Rules," March 14, 2024
- "ALERT: FCC Seeks to Eliminate Digital Discrimination," December 20, 2023
- "FCC Adopts New Pole Attachment Rules to Promote Broadband Expansion," December 18, 2023
- "FCC To Vote on New Pole Attachments Rules to Promote Broadband Expansion," December 4, 2023
- "The Biden-Harris Administration Releases National Spectrum Strategy," December 1, 2023
- "Shutting Down the Cell Phone Scammers: The FCC Adopts Rules to Crack Down on Fraudulent Practices against Wireless Phone Users," November 30, 2023
- "ALERT: FCC Opens Rulemaking on Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems in Licensed Spectrum," January 4, 2023
- "ALERT: FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel Announces Plans to Create a Space Bureau," November 3, 2022
- "The Many Layered Flavors of Broadband – The FCC's Proposed Broadband 'Nutrition Labels,'" April 5, 2022
- "D.C. Circuit Allows FCC To Open 6 GHz Band For Unlicensed Use," January 20, 2022
- "ALERT: NTIA Seeks Public Comment on Implementation of Upcoming Broadband Grant Programs," January 10, 2022
- "Look Up In The Sky! It's Not A Bird. It's Not A Plane. It's A Haps!," December 6, 2021
- "Captain's Blog: Fly Me To The Moon," October 14, 2021
- "UPDATE: National Security Meets Teenage Dance Battles: U.S. Increases Pressure on ByteDance Sale of TikTok," August 17, 2020
- "National Security Meets Teenage Dance Battles: Trump Issues Executive Orders Impacting TikTok and WeChat Business in the U.S.," August 7, 2020
- "Too Much Time on Their Hands – New Executive Order Limits Time Period for Team Telecom Reviews," April 7, 2020
- "Clear for More Takeoffs: Now is the Time to Have Your Voice Heard on New Satellite and Launch Regulations," March 19, 2019

- "Commerce Prioritizes Earth Selfies as It Seeks to Improve Remote Sensing Licensing," July 17, 2018
- "Once Bitten, Twice Shy: FCC Revisits Its Telemarketing Regulations In Light Of The DC Circuit's Decision Striking Down Core Requirements," June 1, 2018
- "FCC Sets Sights on China," May 7, 2018
- "Chips on Their Shoulders: CFIUS Intervenes in Broadcom's Hostile Takeover Bid for Qualcomm," March 8, 2017
- "FCC Proposes Expedited Treatment For New Technologies," February 28, 2018
- "Tracking Trends in CFIUS Review Process Based on Recently Released 2015 Annual Report," October 13, 2017
- "TCPA Update: FCC Seeks Guidance on Proposed Robocall-Blocking Rule," May 19, 2017
- "FCC Liberalizes Rules for Foreign Investment in U.S. Broadcast Licensees," October 17, 2016
- "Hailing on All Frequencies: The FCC Releases the Spectrum Frontiers Order," July 19, 2016
- "EXIM Bank Back in Business," December 9, 2015
- "Cyberspace Oddity: The FCC Regulates Internet Services as Common Carrier Telecommunications Services, 'Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet'," February 27, 2015.
- "Turnin' Havana to Atlanta: The White House Opens Doors for U.S. Telecommunications Investment in Cuba and Latin America," December 19, 2014
- "The FCC Takes a Seat at the Cyber-Regulation Table," December 1, 2014
- "Shedding Light on CFIUS: Appeals Court Holds That CFIUS Review Lacks Constitutional Due Process," July 18, 2014
- "Supreme Court Sides with Broadcasters in *Aereo* Decision," June 30, 2014
- "Once More Unto the Breach: the FCC Calls for Comments on Revamping Net Neutrality Regulations," May 16, 2014
- "Regulatory Reminder: Annual CVAA Compliance Certifications due April 1," February 25, 2014
- "Auction 96 - FCC Prepares for Upcoming H Block Spectrum Auction," August 28, 2013
- "FCC Considers Proposal To Lift 25% Cap On Indirect Foreign Investment In Broadcast Licensees," April 22, 2013
- "Regulatory Reminder: CVAA Compliance Certifications due April 1," March 26, 2013
- "FCC Reminds Advanced Communications Services Providers and Equipment Manufacturers of CVAA Recordkeeping Obligations and Compliance Certification," February 12, 2013
- "FCC's New Closed Captioning Rules Kick Into Gear," September 7, 2012
- "Proposed Easing of Satellite Export Controls Could Benefit U.S. Satellite Industry," May 1, 2012
- "FCC Proposes to Grant DISH's Wish," March 23, 2012
- "CFIUS Submits Annual Report to Congress," January 30, 2012
- "FCC Approves Controversial Net Neutrality Rules," January 4, 2011
- "FCC And FDA Focused On Convergence Of Communications And Medical Systems," August 4, 2010
- "FCC Loses Net Neutrality Suit," April 7, 2010

- "FCC Initiates Net Neutrality Rulemaking," November 2, 2009

Global Trade Law Blog Posts

- "First-Ever Executive Order on CFIUS Highlights Biden's National Security Priorities," September 20, 2022
- "CFIUS Proposes Rules to Implement FIRRMA," September 20, 2019
- "FIRRMA Takes Form as CFIUS Enacts a New Pilot Program Targeting 'Critical Technologies,'" October 11, 2018
- "FCC's Foreign Media Reporting Requirements: Extension of FARA or New Domain?," September 20, 2018

Healthcare Law Blog

- "FCC Announces \$200 Million Telehealth Fund In Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic," April 9, 2020
- "FCC Now Accepting COVID-19 Telehealth Program Applications," April 13, 2020

Real Estate, Land Use & Environmental Law Blog Posts

- "Proposed Rule Expands CFIUS Jurisdiction to Real Estate Investments That Pose a National Security Risk; Could Have Major Impacts on Dealmaking," September 25, 2019

Books

The CFIUS Book: Second Edition
05.2020

Media Mentions

NASA Officials Discuss Commercial Partnerships
C-SPAN, 08.26.2025

The Telecom Developments That Defined 2024
Law360, 12.20.2024

Space Spectrum Trends Point to Growing Policy Concerns; SCS Rules a Challenge
Communications Daily, 02.09.2024

The Top Telecom Developments To Watch In 2024
Law360, 01.01.2024

The Top Telecom Developments To Watch In 2023
Law360, 01.02.2023

With LEO orbit crowding, absent regulators may not be industry's best friend
Space Intel Report, 10.27.2021

Intelsat, SES, Telesat Pick Faster C-Band Clearing; Others Seen Doing Same
Communications Daily, 05.26.2020

Telecommunications Group Of The Year: Sheppard Mullin
Law360, 01.22.2020

The First Illegal Satellite Launch Came With a \$900,000 Penalty
Quartz, 12.20.2018

Law360: DC Circ. Partly Strikes Down FCC's TCPA Expansion
03.16.2018

Speaking Engagements

Speaker, "What is Now Expected for Filing Application Submissions with the FCC," ACI, April 25, 2022

Speaker, "72nd International Astronautical Congress GNF Session: The Mega-Constellation Ecosystem: What industrial and regulatory elements are necessary for a thriving market?," October 26, 2021, Dubai, UAE

Speaker, "CFIUS and Team Telecom: The New Frontier Under FIRRMA," February 19, 2020, Washington, DC

Panelist, "We Found a Breach During Due Diligence - Now What Do We Do?" M&A Conference at Wharton San Francisco, May 16, 2018

Moderator, "Angels, Incubators, and Early Stage Venture Capital," Space 2.0 Conference, Silicon Valley, California, April 26, 2017

Moderator, "Legal Mechanisms for Facilitating Space Collaboration," Fifth Annual Space and Satellite Regulatory Colloquium, Washington, D.C., October 20, 2016

Panelist, "Emergent Space Systems: Regulatory Considerations," SSPI's Emergent Technologies Discussion, Washington, D.C., June 2016

Guest Speaker, "Fourth Annual Space and Satellite Regulatory Colloquium," Washington, D.C., October 2015

Panelist, "Disruption in Space and Telecommunication," American Bar Association's Forum on Air and Space Law, Washington, D.C., June 2013

Moderator, "Tribal Telecommunications Hurdles and Opportunities," NAFOA Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 2012

Panelist, "The Battle Over Spectrum and Its Implications for the Future of MSS Networks," Satellite 2012 Conference, Washington, D.C., March 2012

Speaker, "George Chamberlin Interview with Michael Altschul, Brian Weimer," San Diego Daily Transcript, San Diego Source, San Diego, California, October 2011

Panelist, "Opportunities and Threats for a New Decade," Satellite 2010 Conference, Washington, D.C., March 2010

Moderator, "Satellites, Broadcasting and Cable TV," Satellite 2007 Conference, Washington, D.C., February 2007

Panelist, "Hybrid Wireless Technologies," International Satellite Conference and Expo, San Diego, California, June 2006

Moderator, "Managing Risk in a Risky Business," Satellite 2006 Conference, Washington, D.C., February 2006

Panelist, "Mobile Satellite: New Systems, New Opportunities," Satellite 2005 Conference, Washington, D.C., March 2005

Guest Speaker, "Media Ownership and the Information Battlefield," National Public Radio's WBUR, Boston, Massachusetts, January 2003

Panelist, "Telecom Deals: M&A, Regulatory and Financing Issues," Practising Law Institute, New York, New York, July 2000

Events

SmallSat Symposium 2026

Market Brief: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Substantially Changing How Satellites are licensed
02.11.2026

Silicon Valley Space Week 2025

Computer History Museum, Silicon Valley, October 28-30, 2025

SmallSat Europe 2025

Amsterdam, NL, 05.28.2025

SmallSat Symposium 2025

Silicon Valley, CA, February 4-6, 2025

Silicon Valley Space Week 2024

Mountain View, CA, October 23-24, 2024

Satellite 2024 Conference & Exhibition

Washington, D.C., 03.19.2024

Smallsat Symposium 2024

Silicon Valley, CA, February 6-8, 2024

Silicon Valley Space Week

Satellite to Cell Connectivity - Market Expectations and Technology
10.17.2023

72nd International Astronautical Congress

IAF GNF Session: "The Mega-Constellation Ecosystem: What industrial and regulatory elements are necessary for a thriving market?"

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 10.26.2021

Reception during World Satellite Business Week
Nomad's Paris, 09.10.2019

Connectivity Business Investment Conference
June 26-27, 2019

2019 Satellite Reception
Baby Wale - Washington D.C., 05.08.2019

Satellite Reception in Paris
Daroco, Paris
09.11.2018

Satellite 2018 Reception
Washington, D.C.
03.14.2018

Satellite 2017 Reception
Washington, DC, 03.08.2017

Hold the Phone: Understanding the FCC's New TCPA Ruling
Sheppard Mullin's TCPA Webinar Series
08.06.2015

Lunch With Your Government Contracts Lawyer
Satellite Export Control Update
Sheppard Mullin Washington, D.C. office, 03.20.2013

Podcasts & Webinars

French Insider Episode 34: Cosmic Collaborations: Financing, Innovation, and Franco-American Partnerships in Space with Noel Rimalovski of GH Partners LLC
09.03.2024

Nota Bene Episode 72: Space Law: License, Launch, Finance, Insurance, and Responsible Space Stewardship with Brian Weimer
03.11.2020

Practices

Corporate

Mergers and Acquisitions

Governmental

CFIUS: Foreign Investment in the U.S.

International Reach

China

International Arbitration

Israel

Japan

Korea

International Arbitration

National Security

Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA)

Industries

Aerospace, Defense & Government Services

CFIUS: Foreign Investment in the U.S.

Space & Satellite

Telecom

Education

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 1995, *Olin Fellow in Law & Economics*

B.A., University of Chicago, 1990, *Phi Beta Kappa*

Admissions

Delaware

Maryland

District of Columbia