



Edward "Smitty" Smith

Partner

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Edward "Smitty" Smith is a well-known and highly respected former Federal Communications Commission (FCC) official.

He focuses his practice on telecommunications matters and advises clients on the full range of issues in the wireless and satellite sectors, including spectrum policy, auctions, regulatory actions, equipment approvals, rulemakings and enforcement.

Smitty's experience has made him a leading advisor to clients on issues before the FCC, the U.S. Department of Justice, Congress, state regulators, and state attorneys general. Smitty recently served as a telecom subject matter expert for the Biden-Harris Transition FCC Agency Review Team. He has advised clients on major telecommunications mergers, successfully obtained regulatory merger approvals at the federal and state levels, negotiated settlements with state attorneys general, and represented clients in meetings with congressional members and staff. Smitty has also led international market entry projects in over 50 countries.

Prior to joining DLA Piper, Smitty was Legal Advisor to the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. Smitty advised the FCC Chairman on wireless telecommunications, engineering and technology, and consumer affairs. Smitty also oversaw FCC policymaking on such issues as 5G technology, satellites, spectrum sharing, autonomous vehicle communications, small-cell deployment and unmanned aviation systems.

Previously, Smitty served as Chief of Staff and Senior Counsel of the Incentive Auction Task Force, a multibillion-dollar radio spectrum reallocation project.

Smitty is also a former Special Advisor at the US Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. As Special Advisor, Smitty launched the agency's State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program, a US\$350 million grant program to improve the quality of broadband data nationwide.

Before entering government service, Smitty was a corporate attorney at a major international law firm. Smitty has extensive experience

- Intellectual Property and Technology
- Regulatory and Government Affairs
- Technology Transactions and Strategic Sourcing
- Telecom

- Technology
- Media, Sport and Entertainment

advising clients on general corporate matters, transactions, securities issuances, and mergers and acquisitions.

CREDENTIALS

Admissions

- District of Columbia
- New York

Recognitions

- *Chambers USA*
2021 - Band 3, District of Columbia Telecom, Broadcast & Satellite
Chambers comments, "Edward Smith is a highly experienced practitioner focusing on telecommunication matters. He draws upon notable experience working within the FCC, and has advised the firm's clients on major M&A transactions as well as regulatory and policy work." Clients say, "He's incredibly smart, he has a keen understanding of telecommunications issues in general and he's very responsive." "He is an excellent lawyer and a savvy counselor, who provides practical, strategic advice."
- *The Legal 500 United States*
2021 - Next Generation Partner, Telecoms & Broadcast: Regulatory
The Legal 500 comments, "Also recommended [is]... wireless expert Edward Smith..."
2021 - Recommended, Telecoms & Broadcast: Transactional
The Legal 500 comments, "...Edward Smith [who] is a former FCC official and spectrum policy specialist."
2018-2020 - Next Generation Partner, Telecoms & Broadcast: Regulatory
2018-2020 - Recommended, Telecoms & Broadcast: Transactional
- Recognized as *Law360's* MVPs of the Year award in the Telecommunications category (2020)
- Named to the World Economic Forum's 2018 class of Young Global Leaders
- Named by *Law360*, a prominent national legal industry publication, as one of the top US lawyers under 40
- Named to the Washington Business Journal's "40 under 40" list of accomplished young Washingtonians
- Named by *El Tiempo Latino* of Washington, DC as one of the 100 most influential people for the Nation's Capital Metro Area Latinos in 2017

Education

- J.D., Harvard Law School
- B.A., Brown University

Memberships

- Federal Communications Bar Association
- Co-Chair Federal Communications Bar Association Foundation