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PRACTICE AREAS:

[Data Security & Privacy](#)

[Telecommunications](#)

[Energy](#)

[Litigation](#)

[Telephone Consumer Protection Act \(TCPA\)](#)

[Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and Autonomous Transportation Systems](#)

STATE ADMISSIONS:

Virginia

District of Columbia

COURT ADMISSIONS:

Supreme Court of the United States

U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia

U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia

EDUCATION:

J.D., George Mason University School of Law, 2007

B.B.A., James Madison University, 1997



Robert J. Gastner

MEMBER

Rob Gastner assists telecommunications, energy, and technology companies with regulatory compliance and transactional matters. Rob's clients include IP telephony service providers, local exchange carriers, interexchange carriers, Internet access providers, competitive energy suppliers, and electric utilities. He counsels his clients on a broad range of issues, including rulemakings and other proceedings before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and various state Public Utility Commissions (PUC). Rob has assisted clients with a wide variety of commercial litigation issues before both federal and state courts from initial client interviews through trials and appeals.

Prior to joining Eckert Seamans, Rob worked as an attorney for an insurance defense firm and a boutique telecommunications firm. Rob's involvement in the telecommunications and information technology industries spans more than 15 years, dating back to his work as a software engineer for Sprint. In addition to regulatory matters, Rob also has extensive experience representing clients with respect to litigation. After attending law school, Rob first gained practical experience in the legal profession while serving as a judicial law clerk for the Circuit Court of Virginia's 17th Judicial District in Arlington County.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Advocate on behalf of clients before the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") with respect to a wide variety of competitive issues, including intercarrier compensation, IP Transition, VoIP, Open Internet, Universal Service, slamming, and Customer Proprietary Network Information ("CPNI").
- Conduct regulatory classification audits to determine the appropriate regulatory classification of clients service offerings and to provide management with an overview of the regulatory framework applicable to each of a client's service offerings.
- Represent both telecommunications service providers and competitive energy suppliers before state Public Utility Commissions with respect to consumer protection complaints and related matters.
- Advise clients regarding applicable privacy and consumer

protection obligations, including the drafting of appropriate disclosure statements.

- Advise clients with respect to the formulation of data breach response plans and data security policies laws.
- Counsel clients regarding their marketing campaigns and compliance with the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) and other telemarketing related laws and regulations.
- Advise clients regarding entry into the telecommunications industry and the obtaining of both FCC and state authorizations for the provision of telecommunications services.
- Assist clients with respect to various commercial litigation cases, including municipal and private rights-of-way issues, inter-carrier compensation disputes, and defense of consumer protection class-action proceedings.
- Assist clients with general commercial transactional matters including the drafting of commercial contracts and employment agreements; and the drafting of internal policies for clients regarding property, data privacy, and general employment matters.
- Assisted with the due diligence review for an renewable energy company's acquisition of several green energy projects.
- Represented various investor-owned electric utilities in pole attachment agreement negotiations with cable and telecommunications service providers, related dispute resolution, and FCC complaint proceedings.
- Assisted a global encryption technology company with a survey of lawful interception and data protection obligations in numerous foreign jurisdictions.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Energy Bar Association
- Federal Communications Bar Association
- International Association of Privacy Professionals
- Information Systems Security Association
- Arlington Bar Association

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Selected for inclusion in Washington D.C. Super Lawyers – Rising Star (2015 – 2017)

NEWS AND INSIGHTS

PUBLICATIONS

- ["Key Deadlines For Connect America Fund Phase II Bidders"](#), *Law360*, October 2018.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "The Net without Neutrality: Economic, Regulatory, and Informational Access Impacts," co-presenter, University of Pittsburgh Law Review 80th Publishing Anniversary Symposium, March 2019.
- "The Law of Net Neutrality," presented at Clark Seaman's Continuing Legal Education Seminar, August 2018
- "The Data Breach Reality," co-presenter, Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area, 2015 Consortium Day, June 5, 2015.