

Speaker Bio for Joanne S. Hovis

Joanne Hovis, an attorney with a background in communications and commercial litigation, is President of Columbia Telecommunications Corporation (CTC), a national, public interest, communications engineering and consulting firm. She leads the company's work for non-profit organizations, public interest organizations, and academic and think-tank institutions. She also oversees CTC's educational offerings and training programs, which are offered by several Universities.

Hovis is a recognized authority on municipal and community broadband topics--and on the evolving role of government in the provision of communications services to the public. She leads the CTC team that advises the Cities of San Francisco, Seattle, Tucson, and Portland regarding fiber-to-the-premises networking. She has advised numerous other local governments and non-profits regarding community fiber and wireless networking, including the William Penn Foundation; the Institute for Next Generation Internet; the University of Illinois; and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Hovis also oversees all ongoing research and analysis for local government clients and frequently provides policy and business analysis on large CTC projects such as the regional, interoperable public safety communications network currently under development in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

Currently, she serves on the Board of Directors of NATOA, the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, the national association that represents local governments and promotes community interests in communications matters. In that capacity, she has advised NATOA and the national municipal/county associations regarding the FCC's proposed national public safety broadband wireless network. As a NATOA Director, Hovis has also been active in the discussions in Washington regarding the broadband provisions of the 2009 "stimulus" bill and the United States Broadband Coalition.