



Leadership in Policy Awards Winners

Honoring Our Partners in Public Safety

BY JEFFREY COHEN, WITH ROGER WESPE & MARK REDDISH

Since 2005, APCO has hosted the Public Safety Communications Leadership in Policy Awards Dinner to recognize outstanding service in our field. Previous award recipients include members of Congress, commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), APCO leadership and public safety practitioners. This year, APCO is pleased to honor four deserving awardees. Here's a closer look at the men and women who will be recognized.

Leadership in Advancing Communications Policy: *Sam Ginn, Chairman, First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)*

Sam Ginn began his career in telecommunications in 1960. He worked his way up through the ranks and later launched a wireless phone company, AirTouch, which operated the first widely deployed analog cellular system in North America. He served as the company's chairman from 1993-1999. Ginn has significant experience serving on boards of directors with a number of other companies.

In August 2012 at APCO's Annual Conference & Expo in Minneapolis, Acting U.S. Secretary of Commerce Rebecca Blank announced Ginn's appointment as the inaugural chairman of the board of FirstNet. That Ginn came out of retirement to lead the initial stages of organizing the board and hiring staff, while implementing the highly important provisions of the underlying legislation, demonstrates a strong, and much-appreciated, commitment to public service.

Leadership in Advocacy: *Joe Heaps, Policy Advisor, Department of Justice*

Joe Heaps' commitment to public service is longstanding. He began as an aviator for the U.S. Navy, serving his country

for eight years. After leaving the military, Heaps spent time at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and a commercial satellite company before joining the Department of Justice, where he has worked for more than a decade.

As a policy advisor, Heaps has guided important public safety grant programs, worked on solving communications issues, particularly in the law enforcement arena, and most recently helped to introduce new technology innovations into emergency response.

Leadership in Regulatory Service: *Tim May, Policy Analyst, FCC Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau*

Tim May has worked at the FCC since 2001 when he served as a policy analyst in the Industry Analysis Division of the FCC's Media Bureau. He joined the commission's Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau at its inception in 2006.

In his current capacity, May is involved with a variety of public safety communications issues, including Enhanced 9-1-1 (E9-1-1), Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1), emergency alerting, technological solutions to combat contraband cellphones in prisons, and the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA).

Often serving as the point of contact for proceedings of highest interest to APCO, May has been a resource to the association and the greater public safety community. May is one of the more talented and committed individuals to contribute to the formation of important commission inquiries, workshops, rules and orders for the benefit of public safety.

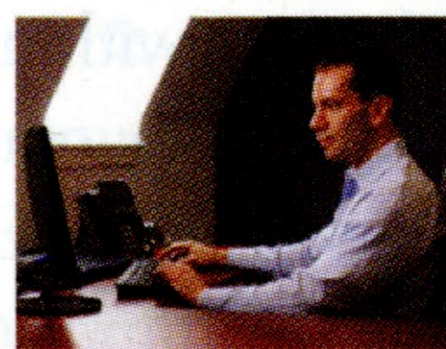
Leadership in Legislative Service: *Senator Amy Klobuchar*

Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota

serves on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation's subcommittee on Communications, Technology, & the Internet, which has jurisdiction over public safety communications. Notably, Senator Klobuchar serves as a co-chair of the Congressional NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus, the only bipartisan, bicameral organization dedicated exclusively to emergency communications issues and the education of lawmakers, constituents and communities about the importance of 9-1-1 services. Senator Klobuchar touched on these and other themes when she provided keynote remarks at APCO's 78th Annual Conference & Expo, held in Minneapolis in 2012. She has sponsored resolutions designating April as "National 9-1-1 Education Month," and her efforts guided the passage of the Next Generation 9-1-1 Advancement Act of 2012.

The awards dinner provides a fitting end to APCO's two day Broadband Summit & Expo, which brings together policy leaders, industry experts and public safety professionals to discuss timely issues in public safety communications. We offer our respect and gratitude to this year's award winners and all those who work tirelessly to support public safety communications. ||PSC||

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Roger Wespe, government relations manager, and Mark Reddish, government relations associate, also contribute to this series. Like us on Facebook and follow @GRO_APCO on Twitter for timely updates and information. Our blog provides a forum to interact directly with the GRO team. Join the conversation at www.apcointl.org/tabletopx/.