



Morgan Lewis

WELCOME

WORKING WITH

USAC

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Agenda

- Introduction to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)
- Best practices when engaging with USAC

Who is USAC?

- Permanent administrator of the Universal Service Fund (USF)
- Collects and manages contributions to USF and the four USF programs:
 - Rural Health Care Program (RHC)
 - School and Libraries Program (E-Rate)
 - Lifeline Program
 - High Cost Program
- Safeguards the USF from waste, fraud, and abuse of program funds

USAC Legal and Regulatory Framework

- USAC is a non-profit Delaware corporation
- Operates under Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with FCC
- FCC oversees USAC and provides guidance
- USAC may not advocate before the FCC, make policy, or interpret program rules

USAC Has Contacted You. Who are They?

- Program Divisions
 - Rural Health Care Division
 - Schools and Libraries Division
 - Lifeline Division
 - High Cost Division
 - Appropriated Programs
- Financial Operations – Contributions to USF
- Audit and Assurance Division
- Office of General Counsel

Working with Program Divisions

- Program Administration
 - Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) Reviews
 - Post-Commitment Review
 - Other Compliance Reviews and Investigations
 - Appeals
- Stakeholder Communications

Working with Other USAC Divisions

- Financial Operations (FinOps)
 - Contributions
 - Disbursements
 - Recoveries and Payment Plans
 - Red Light Reporting
- Audit and Assurance Division
 - Beneficiary & Contributor Audit Program (BCAP)
 - Payment Quality Assurance (PQA) Program
- Office of General Counsel (OGC)
 - Fraud Risk Group (FRG)

Communication is Key!

- Proactive communication is best
 - It is better to ask permission than forgiveness.
 - USAC has some flexibility but not with all requirements.
- Do not ignore or fail to respond to USAC
 - Email addresses should be monitored.
 - Partial response is better than no response.
 - FCC has issued fines for failure to respond to USAC.

Communication is Key!

- It's okay to ask questions
 - Seek clarification instead of guessing.
- Working with USAC OGC
- Audit and appeal – engage legal or regulatory expertise
- Keep a record of all communications

Respect USAC

- Be reasonable, cooperative, and respectful!
 - USAC review and processing time can be the result of internal processes and coordination with the FCC.
- Advocate the Company's position

USAC or FCC?

- FCC Only
 - Waivers
 - Rule Changes
- USAC first then FCC
 - Appeals
- Your choice
 - Compliance concerns

Glossary

ACRONYM	DEFINITION	ACRONYM	DEFINITION
ACP	Affordable Connectivity Program	OGC	Office of General Counsel
BCAP	Beneficiary and Contributor Audit Program	PIA	Program Integrity Assurance
ECF	Emergency Connectivity Fund	PQA	Payment Quality Assurance
FinOps	Financial Operations	RHC	Rural Health Care
FCC	Federal Communications Commission	USAC	Universal Service Administrative Company
FRG	Fraud Risk Group	USF	Universal Service Fund
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding		

Biography



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Tamar E. Finn is a partner in the Telecommunications, Media, & Technology (TMT) practice. Tamar has 25 years of experience representing clients on telecommunications issues before the Federal Communications Commission, state public utility commissions, courts and Congress. Tamar advises clients with respect to telecommunications rulemakings, regulatory compliance, audits and investigations, transactional diligence and regulatory approvals.

Tamar represents communications companies in key proceedings before the FCC regarding universal service, broadband, local competition, intercarrier compensation, and Telecommunications Relay Services.

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Kimberly Morning is an of counsel member of the Telecommunications, Media, & Technology (TMT) practice. Kim is the former acting Vice President and General Counsel of USAC. Kim advises clients on the Universal Service Fund, including the E-Rate, Rural Health Care, High Cost and Lifeline programs as well as USF contributions. She assists clients with avoiding USF compliance issues, advocates for policy changes and improvements before USAC and the FCC and defends companies against audits and investigations.

Biography



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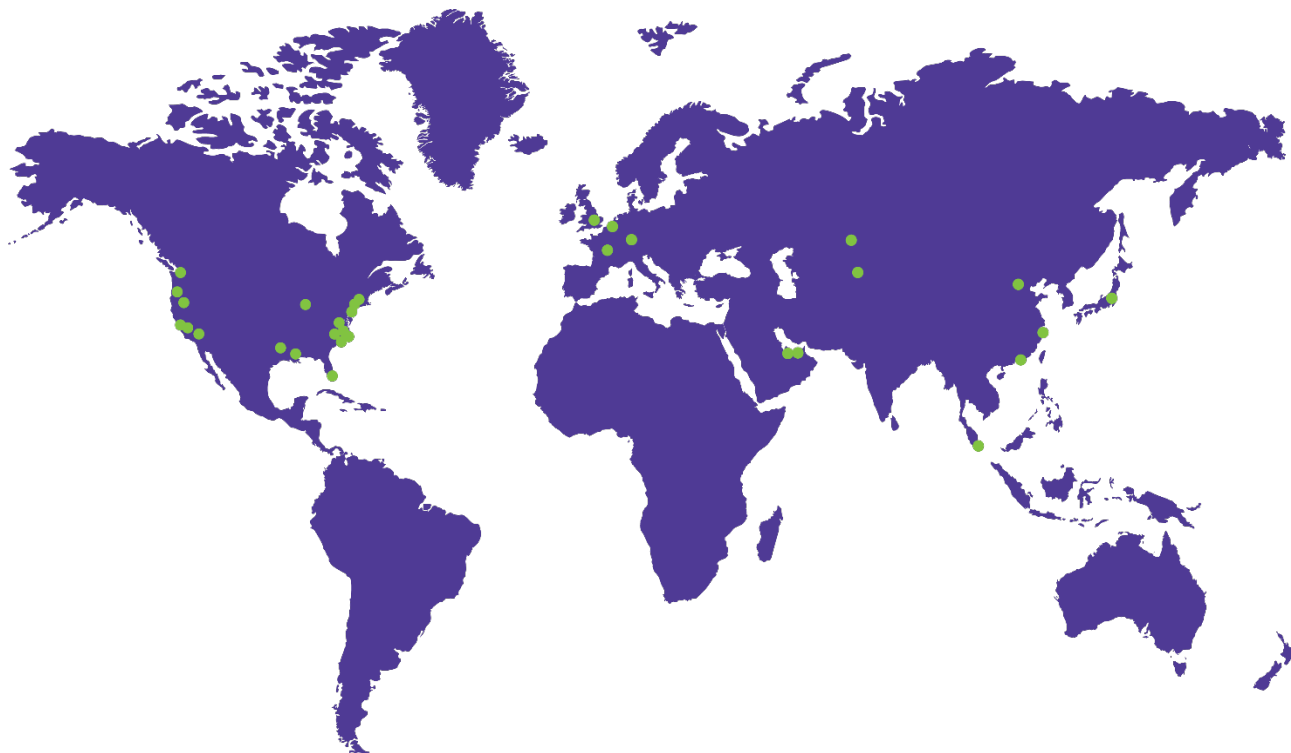
Tanya Tiwari is an associate in the Telecommunications, Media, & Technology (TMT) practice. Tanya advises clients on regulatory and compliance matters related to the Universal Service Fund, including the USF programs and contributions. She also assists with bankruptcy and transactional matters and advocates policy before the FCC. Prior to joining Morgan Lewis, Tanya was an associate general counsel at USAC, where she served as the lead attorney supporting the Rural Health Care Program.

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