



Robert G. Kirk

PARTNER

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Companies turn to Bob for regulatory advice when their businesses employ emerging technologies – particularly in the wireless and uncrewed aircraft industries. With more than 30 years of experience, he helps clients navigate the application of existing regulatory regimes to new technologies and advocate for new regulatory approaches.

With the explosive growth in the uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS or drone) industry, he has assisted clients in obtaining authority from the FAA to utilize UAS in ways not contemplated by the rules; advocating for business- and consumer-friendly UAS regulations at the federal, state, and local levels; opposing state and local proposals to criminalize certain UAS activities; evaluating potential UAS business cases; and formulating compliance plans for UAS operations. He is regularly involved in FAA and local proceedings dealing with UAS regulation and has been at the forefront on federal preemption issues, successfully working with clients in cases challenging state and local laws attempting to regulate drone operations.

Bob's work on UAS matters dovetails with his infrastructure practice. He has drafted various petitions that resulted in changes to, or relief from, FCC siting rules, including a petition that resulted in FCC preemption of a local ordinance restricting tower deployments. He also works extensively with clients on network resiliency issues.

Bob also has been advising clients on all aspects of wireless service for more than two decades. He regularly appears before the FCC on enforcement matters and his experience ranges from defending clients in administrative hearings to negotiating consent decrees with the FCC in formal complaint cases.

PRACTICE AREAS

Telecommunications and Media
Administrative and Court Litigation
Tower Siting and Infrastructure
FCC Enforcement
Wireless Communications and
Spectrum Policy
Transportation and Emerging
Technologies
Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) and
Advanced Air Mobility (AAM)
Enforcement and Investigations

BAR ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia
Massachusetts
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of
Columbia Circuit

EDUCATION

J.D., George Washington University
National Law Center
B.A., Merrimack College