

Deborah Lathen Biography



Deborah Ann Lathen - Class of 1971 - 3/28/1953 - was born on March 28, 1953, in St. Louis, Missouri. After graduating from Cornell University with her B.A. degree in 1975, Lathen went on to earn her J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1978. Deborah Lathen is President of Lathen Consulting in Washington, DC, founded in 2001, began providing consulting services to telecommunications and media companies. In 2007, she was asked to serve as a board member for British Telecommunications (BT), where she serves on the Remuneration Committee. Lathen Consulting specializes in providing services to telecommunications and media companies.

Lathen then practiced law at the law offices of Foley and Lardner LLP, and of Keck, Mahin & Cate. In 1982, she became a litigation attorney at The Quaker Oats Company where she was honored with the Quaker Oats Chairman's Award in 1988. That same year, Lathen was hired as the Senior Counsel for TRW, Inc.

In 1991, Lathen began working as managing counsel for the Nissan Motor Corporation and specialized in the provision of legal services in the areas of general corporate law, logistics, finance, environmental compliance and other general business matters. Lathen worked for the Nissan Corporation until 1998, when she was hired at the FCC as bureau chief of the Cable Services Bureau. In addition to advising the chairman and commissioners on issues related to internet industries, broadband and cable, as bureau chief, Lathen oversaw some significant changes in the communications industry such as the America Online and Time Warner merger, the implementation of the Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Act (SHIVA) and the federal regulation of instant messaging.

Previously, Ms. Lathen worked at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as Bureau Chief of the Cable Services Bureau. While there, she provided legal, policy and regulatory advice to the FCC Chairman and Commissioners on cable, broadband, video programming and Internet industries and monitored the impact of regulatory developments on the broadband market. As Chief, she presided over some of the most significant proceedings in the communications industry including the massive AOL/Time-Warner merger and making cable systems accessible to rival Internet service providers; managed the implementation of the Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Act (SHVIA); the revision of the horizontal ownership and attribution rules; and a host of rulings pertaining to cable services, video programming and broadband deployment. Before joining the FCC, Ms. Lathen was previously Director National Consumer Affairs and Managing Counsel at Nissan Motor Corporation USA, where she was responsible for the provision of legal services to Nissan and its North American affiliates in the areas of general corporate law, logistics, finance, environmental compliance, and general business matters. She holds a JD from Harvard Law School and a BA from Cornell University.