



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT **NEWS RELEASE**

CONSUMER COUNSEL MARY J. HEALEY

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 6, 2007**

## ***OCC Urges DPUC to Order AT&T to Obtain Cable Franchise***

The Office of Consumer Counsel (the "OCC") urges the Department of Public Utility Control (the "Department") to order AT&T Connecticut to obtain a cable franchise. AT&T Connecticut should now set aside its focus on litigation and lobbying and instead concentrate on bringing quality and innovative services to the benefit of consumers, earning a profit and filling out its service bundles.

As the OCC has repeatedly stated, competition in video services remains a goal it advocates and supports in every way. That said, the OCC has never advocated for competition for competition's sake. Only a truly competitive market can drive prices down toward cost, generate great innovations, and force service quality to remain at the highest levels, goals the OCC has long supported through its advocacy on behalf of consumers.

The recent federal ruling in *OCC v. AT&T* decisively cut short the miscalculation embarked upon by the 3-to-2 decision reached by the Department last summer, and it now remains for the Department to quickly rectify the current illegal provision of video services by AT&T Connecticut in Connecticut. It is also vital that the conditions of franchise that emerge are in every way fair to all the players in the video market in this state.

The federal court's ruling provides a legal foundation for the fact that an *UN*equal playing field for video services is unacceptable and illegal, and that the legal structures already in place in state and federal law demand balance among the service providers.

###

---

**MEDIA CONTACT**  
BILL VALLEE, 860-827-2905.