



LEVENTHAL SENTER & LERMAN PLLC

To: *All Television Clients*

February 3, 2006

**CONGRESS SETS HARD DIGITAL TELEVISION CONVERSION DATE:
February 18, 2009**

On February 1, 2006, Congress enacted the Deficit Reduction Act, which includes a hard deadline for the conversion of full power television stations from analog to digital.

The legislation requires all full-power analog television stations to cease broadcasting by February 18, 2009.

Beginning February 18, 2009, all full-power and Class A television stations will be permitted to operate only on channels 2-51. Full-power television stations must operate digital facilities. The new law permits Class A television

stations to operate either analog or digital facilities.

The legislation also authorizes the U.S. Government to spend up to \$1.5 billion on \$40 vouchers that can be applied toward the purchase of a simple digital-to-analog converter that would permit the continued use of analog television receivers. There will be a limit of two vouchers per household, and the vouchers cannot be combined. The funds appropriated will cover only 37.5 million vouchers, which are obviously much fewer than the more than 110 million television households in the United States.

This memorandum is intended only as a general discussion of these issues and should not be regarded as legal advice. We would be pleased to provide additional details or advice about specific situations if desired. To discuss any of the issues presented here, please contact any attorney in our office.