

2020 Broadband Visionary Award Winner



Robin Ancona has spent her 40 year career in dedicated public service beginning her career at the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) in August of 1979.

Robin first started in the Motor Carrier Division at the MPSC working as an auditor. She then transitioned to the Technical Services Division working in the Depreciation Section and as a Compliance auditor of all utilities, although most of her time was spent on the yearlong audit of the break-up of AT&T back in the early 80's.

In 1984, Robin then went to the Communications Division working on federal/state issues as an accounting specialist until the reorganization of the MPSC in 1987. Robin continued her work on federal/state Telecommunications issues in the newly created Office of Policy & Planning.

After another reorganization at the MPSC, Robin returned to the Telecommunications Division in the Tariff Section in 1996. Robin worked on many issues and projects related to the implementation of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, including serving on several arbitration panels for the Commission. Robin was promoted to the manager of the newly created Broadband Section in 2002 and then served as manager of the Rates & Financial Analysis Section and the Licensing & Competitive Issues Sections along the way. She served as Advisor to Commissioner Dave Svanda on Telecommunications matters. In January 2008, Robin became Director of the Telecommunications Division – a position that she has held for over 12 years.

Robin has served on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications in an official capacity since 2008, although she was support staff to many others over the years in an unofficial capacity. Robin has served on the Staff Subcommittee on State Universal Service Fund Administrators, the NARUC Lifeline Task Force and she has served as staff support to Commissioners who served on Federal-State Joint Boards and Commissions on Telecommunications issues.

Robin served as Michigan's representative on the National Telecommunications Information Administration's State Broadband Initiative for broadband mapping, research, and planning from 2009 – 2015. Robin has also served on the Michigan Relay Center Board, the Michigan Collaborative Broadband Committee, as staff support for Chairman Talberg on the Michigan Consortium of Advanced Networks and most recently as a member on the Steering Committee for the Connecting Michigan Communities broadband grant program. While not regulated by the MPSC, Robin has always been a passionate advocate for broadband in Michigan and worked tirelessly to connect ever Michigander to high-speed internet service.

Robin received an MPSC Special Recognition Award in 2009 for her work on several key pieces of legislation in the telecommunications area and for her work partnering with Connected Nation for broadband mapping. She also received an MPSC Honorable Mention Service Award in 2013 for her work on telecommunications legislation as well as work on analyzing the transition to IP technology. Robin also received a State of Michigan Teamwork Coin in 2018 for her work on the team for the Lean Process Improvement Project to recommend a new system program for the Commissions docket filing system.