

*For Immediate Release*

November 8, 2004



## **DEPUTY DIRECTOR CHERYL A. LEANZA ANNOUNCES HER DEPARTURE**

After six and one-half years at Media Access Project, Cheryl A. Leanza today announced her departure as MAP's Deputy Director. "Working at Media Access Project has been a tremendous experience. I have been fortunate to work with the most committed, intelligent, and passionate advocates anywhere, both inside MAP and outside of it," said Ms. Leanza. "I will miss and treasure my colleagues and wonderful people with whom I have had the privilege to work over the last six years." She is joining the staff of the National League of Cities, where she will work on telecommunications issues as its Principal Legislative Counsel.

Andrew Jay Schwartzman, MAP's President and CEO, said that "it will not be easy" to replace Ms. Leanza. "Cheryl is an extraordinarily talented woman, and there are not a lot of others who combine her energy, knowledge and skills," he explained. "We will miss her very much. We will always value her friendship. In an organization as small as ours, the staff must collaborate very closely, and we will miss her insights every day from here on out. The National League of Cities is very wise, and very fortunate, to have hired her."

During her tenure at Media Access Project, Ms. Leanza was co-counsel in dozens of court and FCC proceedings. Her assignments included playing instrumental roles in the successful appeals of FCC decisions allowing greater media consolidation in *Prometheus v. FCC*, and eliminating first amendment protections on the Internet in *Brand X v. FCC*. In one of her most significant achievements, Ms. Leanza was a leader in the fight to establish low power radio. According to Andrew Schwartzman:

"Because of Cheryl's work, over three hundred community organizations now have direct access to the airwaves, and many hundreds more will soon be added. Beyond using her skills as an attorney, she has been an articulate advocate for the public, created alliances with a wide array of organizations, and worked tirelessly to improve MAP's the day-to-day operations."

Ms. Leanza will continue at MAP until November 19, 2004

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