

Baller Stokes & Lide

A law firm based in Washington, D.C. whose lawyers work with local and state governments, municipal utilities, nonprofit organizations, and private new entrants that are seeking to navigate the complex web of laws and regulations affecting telecommunications, broadband, cable, and wireless projects

Baller Stokes & Lide is widely recognized as the leading law firm in the United States on public broadband matters. It is our firm's core tenet that robust, competitively-priced, high-capacity broadband can be an engine to drive economic growth, educational opportunity, and just about everything else that is of critical importance to the well-being and quality of life of communities. We seek to empower communities to engage in the kinds of innovative arrangements that would enable them to realize this vision. As a result, we routinely work on interesting Internet infrastructure projects around the country, including public fiber networks, wireless deployments, and a range of public-private partnerships.

We have worked with local leaders in many of the leading local broadband initiatives in the United States over the years, including Chattanooga, TN; Lafayette, LA; Wilson, NC; and dozens more. [Here](#) is a link to an article discussing how Chattanooga's successful broadband network has reshaped the community's identity and economic future; and [here](#) is a link to our Statement of Qualifications, which includes Chattanooga's testimonial describing our contributions to its project.

In addition, our firm helps to support our sister organization, the Coalition for Local Internet Choice (CLIC). Currently, there are about [20 state laws](#) that limit or restrict communities from participating in broadband projects. CLIC, with a coalition of over 500 businesses, nonprofit organizations, advocacy groups, and individuals, fights against proposed legislation that would create additional restrictions affecting public broadband projects and works to remove the existing barriers.

We are seeking a creative and adaptive associate attorney to join our team. The right candidate must have a zeal for promoting better Internet access. Any experience with, or exposure to, public broadband projects would also be a plus. Because we are a boutique firm with broad interests, attorneys at our firm enthusiastically wear a lot of different hats. A successful candidate would feel comfortable negotiating technical contracts, working on Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rulemakings, drafting policy briefings and newsletters, and representing the firm and/or CLIC at external events.

More specifically, as part of our team, an associate attorney would participate in a variety of legal, policy, and other matters. Responsibilities may include:

- Working on FCC and other federal agency proceedings and creating client alerts for relevant rulemakings;
- Drafting, reviewing, and negotiating broadband infrastructure agreements of various kinds, including: design and construction agreements, public-private partnership agreements, interconnection and collocation agreements, dark and lit fiber leases, pole attachment

agreements, wireless small cell licensing agreements, and indefeasible right of use (IRU) agreements;

- Developing requests for proposals for cities and counties seeking to partner with the private sector to deploy last mile and middle mile fiber and fixed wireless networks;
- Advising clients on FCC compliance matters and funding opportunities;
- Compiling a near-daily list of relevant articles, reports, and announcements for an email blast to our clients and colleagues;
- Supporting client development initiatives;
- Supporting CLIC by reviewing relevant state and federal legislation and crafting outreach materials for CLIC's supporters;
- Representing the firm and CLIC at external events and conferences.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- JD degree;
- Member of the DC bar or a state bar, with eligibility to waive into DC Bar;
- 2-4 years as a practicing attorney;
- Eagerness to learn our practice; and
- Demonstrated ability to assume substantial responsibilities.

We prefer candidates who meet the following criteria:

- Experience in communications law and policy;
- 2-4 years as a practicing communications attorney;
- Demonstrable interest in promoting Internet access and eliminating the digital divide;
- Some knowledge of community broadband and/or other community-led broadband initiatives;
- Experience advising clients in structuring communications projects and drafting service or other infrastructure agreements; and
- Familiarity with FCC rulemakings, enforcement proceedings, and funding programs, specifically aspects of the Universal Service Program.

Please send a statement of interest, resume, and writing sample to: jim@baller.com. Applications should be submitted as soon as possible.