Court Grants Sinclair Stay on Television Duopoly Rules

BALTIMORE, June 21 /PRNewswire/ --

Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. (Nasdaq: SBGI) announced that the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit granted the Company's motion for Stay of the requirement that Sinclair divest itself of "local marketing agreements" (LMAs) by August 6, 2001, pending the courts review of a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rule limiting the number of stations that television broadcasters can own in a market.

Under an August 6, 1999 FCC Order, Sinclair was required to terminate its (LMA) in three markets: Dayton, Ohio; Charleston, South Carolina; and Charleston, West Virginia, as well as, arguably its LMA in a fourth market, Columbus, Ohio. The judgment, entered in favor of Sinclair, allows Sinclair to continue its LMAs pending the judicial review. Oral arguments are scheduled for January 2002.

Commenting on the stay, David Smith, President and CEO of Sinclair, stated, "This is a significant event for us and the broadcast industry, and we are extremely pleased with the court's decision to grant the stay. We are optimistic that the court will look favorably on our petition to reverse the FCC's Order on the grounds that it is unconstitutional, arbitrary, and capricious and should be stricken for reasons similar to those that resulted in this same court striking down the cable ownership caps."

Sinclair currently owns one duopoly in Las Vegas and operates two stations in 18 markets pursuant to LMAs.

Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc., one of the largest and most diversified television broadcasting companies, currently owns and operates, or programs, 62 television stations in 40 markets. Sinclair's television group includes FOX, WB, ABC, CBS, NBC, and UPN affiliates and reaches approximately 25.0% of all U.S. television households. For more information, please visit Sinclair's website at www.sbgi.net.

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