Senate Commerce Committee Nominee Questionnaire, 119th Congress

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (the "Committee") requests that you provide typed answers to each of the following questions. It is also requested that you type the question in full before each response. Do not leave any questions blank. Type "None" or "Not Applicable" if a question does not apply to you. Begin each section (*i.e.*, "A", "B", etc.) on a new sheet of paper. Electronically submit your completed questionnaire to the Committee in PDF format and ensure that sections A through E of the completed questionnaire are in a text searchable and that any hyperlinks are active and can be clicked. Section F may be scanned for electronic submission and need not be searchable.

Incomplete questionnaires may delay the nomination process.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used):

Danielle Thumann Severs; Danielle Kristin Thumann (Maiden Name)

2. Position to which nominated:

Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission

3. Date of Nomination:

August 7, 2026

4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):

[redacted]

[redacted]

5. Date and Place of Birth:

[redacted]

6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) or domestic partner, and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

Spouse:
James Lawrence Severs
Associate Attorney, Troutman Pepper Locke
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

7. List all college and graduate schools attended, whether or not you were granted a degree by the institution. Provide the name of the institution, the dates attended, the degree received, and the date of the degree.

The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law (August 2013 to May 2016), Awarded J.D., and Certificate, Institute for Communications Law Studies (May 2016)

The University of Virginia (August 2010 to May 2013), Awarded B.A., Foreign Affairs (May 2013)

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, including the job title, name of employer, and inclusive dates of employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

Federal Communications Commission

- **Senior Counsel, Office of Chairman Brendan Carr (January 2025-Present)****
- **Legal Advisor, Office of Commissioner Brendan Carr (March 2021-July 2023; July 2024-December 2024)***
- **Law Clerk, Office of Commissioner Michael O'Rielly (September 2014-December 2014) (Law School Internship)***
- **Legal Intern, Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau (May 2014-August 2014) (Law School Internship)***

Crown Castle, Senior Attorney, Government Relations (July 2023-June 2024)**

Adjunct Professor, The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, Communications Law Practicum (August 2022-July 2023)*

Associate Attorney, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP (September 2016-March 2021)*

Law Clerk, CTIA—The Wireless Association (August 2015-December 2015) (Law School Internship)*

Summer Associate, Telecommunications Law Professionals (May 2015-August 2015) (Law School Internship)*

Legal Intern, National Cable and Telecommunications Association (December 2014-April 2015) (Law School Internship)*

Denotes non-managerial job that relates to the position for which I have been nominated

****** Denotes managerial-level job that relates to the position for which I have been nominated***

9. Attach a copy of your resume.

Attached.

10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above after 18 years of age.

None.

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution.

Trustee, Federal Communications Bar Association Foundation (2023-2026)*

I no longer hold this position

12. List all memberships you have had after 18 years of age or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization (You do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution). Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

None of the following organizations or associations restrict membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

Member, Alpha Phi Omega National Service Co-Educational Fraternity (2011-2013)

Member, College Republicans (2010-2013)

Member, Communications Law Students Association ("CLSA") (2013-2016)
- **Vice President, CLSA (2015-2016)**

Member, Republican National Lawyers Association (2013-Present)

Member, The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law's Law and Technology Institute Alumni Association ("LTIAA") (2013-Present)
- **President, LTIAA (2019-2020)**

Member, Federal Communications Bar Association ("FCBA") (2013-Present)
- **Co-Chair, FCBA Moot Court Committee (2016-2021)**
- **Member, FCBA Women's Leadership Committee (2021-2024)**
- **Co-Chair, FCBA Carolina Chapter (2025-Present)**
- **Member, FCBA Nominations Committee (2026-Present)**

Trustee, Federal Communications Bar Association Foundation (2023-2026)
- **Deputy Treasurer, FCBA Foundation (2023-2024)**
- **Treasurer, FCBA Foundation (2024-2026)**

Member, The Federalist Society (2016-Present)
- **Member and Vice Chair of the Federalist Society's Telecommunications and Electronic Media Practice Group (2016-Present)**

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt.

No.

14. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities.

None.

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of $200 or more for the past ten years.

None.

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

NATE: The Communications Infrastructure Contractors Association, 2026 Regulatory Champion of the Year Award

Crittenton Services of Greater Washington, 2025 Leadership Award Honoree

FCBA, 2020 Distinguished Service Award

17. List all books, articles, columns, letters to the editor, Internet blog postings, or other publications you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication when available.

None.

18. List all speeches, panel discussions, and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint) that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the speech or presentation when available.

Guest Lecturer at Georgetown Law, February 24, 2025, on Universal Service, presentation attached

NATE, Climbcast, Episode 3, March 17, 2026, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnU8y1gQxMk

Regulatory Reform for 5G Deployment: Infrastructure and Policy Perspectives, April 2025, Moderator, https://fedsoc.org/events/regulatory-reform-for-5g-deployment-infrastructure-and-policy-perspectives

NATE Unite, Raleigh Convention Center, February 17-20, 2025, on 2025 Legislative and Regulatory Outlook, link not available and no prepared speech or presentation

Navigating the FCC's Digital Discrimination Rules, May 2024, Moderator, https://fedsoc.org/events/navigating-the-fcc-s-digital-discrimination-rules

A Seat at the Sitting - April 2024, April 2024, Moderator, https://fedsoc.org/events/a-seat-at-the-sitting-april-2024

WIA Connect (X) 2023, May 8-10, 2023, Panelist, link not available and no prepared speech or presentation

CCA Mobile Carriers Show 2023, May 4, 2023, Panelist, Regulatory Burdens: Too Much of a Well-Intentioned Thing, link not available and no prepared speech or presentation

NTCA 2023 Legislative & Policy Conference, April 17, 2023, Panelist, FCC Advisors Panel, link not available and no prepared speech or presentation

PG-15 FedSoc Study Break: Communications Law: Internet for All?, November 2022, https://fedsoc.org/events/pg-15-fedsoc-study-break-communications-law-internet-for-all

Spectrum Policy in the 5G Era, March 2022, Moderator, https://fedsoc.org/events/spectrum-policy-in-the-5g-era

WIA Connect (X) 2021, October 4-7, 2021, Panelist, https://wia.org/event/connect-x-2021/

Facebook Inc. v. Duguid - Post-Decision SCOTUScast, April 2021, Moderator, https://fedsoc.org/commentary/podcasts/facebook-inc-v-duguid-post-decision-scotuscast

The Law and Economics of Municipal Broadband, September 2020, Moderator, https://fedsoc.org/events/the-law-and-economics-of-municipal-broadband

Update on 5G Development and Spectrum Issues, March 2020, Moderator, https://fedsoc.org/events/update-on-5g-development-and-spectrum-issues

19. List all public statements you have made during the past ten years, including statements in news articles and radio and podcasts and television appearances, which are on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated, including dates. Include a link to each statement when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the statement when available.

None.

20. List all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the full name of an "alias" or "handle", including the complete URL and username with hyperlinks, you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

X: https://x.com/DanielleThumann (active)
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/daniellekthumann (active)
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/daniellethumannsevers/ (active)
Facebook: https://facebook.com/danielle.thumann.9 (active)

21. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date, committee, and subject matter of each testimony.

None.

22. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency/commission/corporation to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

I believe my background and professional experience have prepared me well to serve as an FCC Commissioner. As a first-year law student at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, I chose to focus my studies on communications law and policy. I joined the school's Communications Law Institute and graduated with both my J.D. and a certificate in communications law studies.

My experiences as a law student gave me a good foundation of the key legal and policy issues that are central to the FCC's work. I had the opportunity to intern at the FCC on two occasions—first, in the Wireline Competition Bureau's Pricing Policy Division, and then in a Commissioner's office. Additionally, I interned at several trade associations that represented various communications sectors and spent one summer working at a small telecom firm.

After graduating in 2016, I spent nearly five years working at a medium-sized law firm that specialized in communications law. During that time, I worked on a wide range of issues related to the FCC and communications more broadly. This experience helped me understand the FCC's statutory authorities and rules, as well as how its decisions affect companies and American consumers.

I have also had the privilege of working at the FCC during two separate periods. I first worked in then-Commissioner Carr's office as a Legal Advisor counseling him on wireline, public safety, and consumer affairs issues. After one year in the private sector working as Government Relations Counsel for a communications infrastructure provider, I returned in 2024 as Legal Advisor. Since January 2025, I have been serving as Chairman Carr's Senior Counsel on matters before the Wireline Competition Bureau, the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, and the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. In this role, I have worked closely with the FCC's staff every day and have developed a deep appreciation of their expertise and dedication.

I wish to continue serving at the FCC as a Commissioner because I believe deeply in the FCC's mission of ensuring that all Americans have access to reliable, robust connectivity. Over the past 18 months, I have helped to advance the Commission's policy agenda and have seen firsthand the impact its work can have on the American people. If confirmed, I would bring my experience to the agency and advance common-sense policies that serve the public interest and make a real difference for Americans.

23. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency/commission/corporation has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

If confirmed, I would work with my colleagues to ensure that the agency is being properly managed so that it can operate as effectively and efficiently as possible. With respect to my management experience, I have served as Senior Counsel to the current Chairman for the last 18 months, helping to manage the workflow of staff across the three bureaus that I work with most directly.

24. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency/commission/corporation, and why?

1. **<u>Ensuring All Americans Have Access to Broadband Services and Advanced Connectivity</u>.**

   Robust, reliable connectivity is essential for nearly every aspect of modern life including work, education, public safety, and health care. Tremendous progress has been made in closing the digital divide, with nearly 97 percent of Americans having access to fixed terrestrial service at 100/20 Mbps.

   Furthermore, we have seen an influx in federal spending on closing the digital divide in recent years, including through the NTIA's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program as well as the FCC's Universal Service programs.

   Looking ahead, the FCC can help foster investment and deployment through smart regulatory policies as a complement to these efforts in closing the digital divide. First, streamlining the requirements that exist for infrastructure deployment will help new competitors enter the marketplace, fostering greater competition. Freeing up additional

spectrum for commercial use will likewise incentivize deployment and create intensified competition. More competition will continue to drive downward pressure on pricing, helping to ensure that services are more affordable for Americans.

Where gaps remain over the longer term for both availability and affordability, the FCC's USF programs will continue to play an important role in ensuring no American is left behind. We should ensure that limited federal dollars are used efficiently to target the hardest-to-serve areas. This will require us to take a fresh look at the FCC's programs and rules to ensure technology neutrality.

2. **<u>Combatting Illegal Robocalls and Protecting Americans Against Scams</u>.**

Robocalls are not just a nuisance but one of the primary entry points for fraud. In 2025, Americans lost an estimated $16 billion to all types of fraud, with many consumers being lured through text, phone, email, and social media. Many fraudulent schemes and scams target vulnerable populations, including the elderly, making it all the more important that we restore America's trust in the phone calls and texts they receive.

The FCC has been driving an aggressive and comprehensive policy agenda to combat illegal robocalls, including teeing up new rulemakings that address these calls at different parts of the call cycle. The current Administration has opened new rulemaking proceedings focused on caller-ID authentication, the Robocall Mitigation Database, tightening the Know Your Customer and Know Your Upstream Provider standards, and strengthening access to numbering resources. Driving these proceedings to completion and complementing that work with continued aggressive enforcement against bad actors can protect Americans and help drive down phone call and text related fraud.

Furthermore, the FCC can continue to improve its cross agency enforcement and information sharing efforts to help protect against scenarios where bad actors move from using one medium to commit fraud to another in an attempt to evade the law.

3. <u>Ensuring Networks are Modernized to Meet Future Needs</u>.

America is currently in the middle of a significant transition away from legacy infrastructure to modern networks. This transition includes the ongoing work to retire legacy copper as providers move to an all-IP environment. It also includes network and capacity upgrades to accommodate increased data usage, AI, connected devices, and other advanced applications. And it includes upgrades from yesterday's 911 infrastructure to Next-Generation 911.

Delay in this transition due to unfavorable regulatory conditions would be a major hindrance for ongoing U.S. leadership in technology, as well as national security. It would also put American consumers at a significant disadvantage. Modernized networks will enable more resilient and reliable networks, greater accessibility as IP can more readily support real-time text, video, captioning and other accessibility features, advanced public safety tools including richer emergency communications, and improved functionality of STIR/SHAKEN to aid the FCC in its work to combat illegal robocalls.

The FCC has a critical role in creating the right regulatory conditions for network modernization efforts. The agency cannot let outdated rules or legacy financial incentives make it more cost effective to maintain old, deteriorating networks. Nor can the FCC or states require that these networks be maintained as newer networks are also being deployed in the same locations across the country. Instead, the FCC should continue its work to incentivize faster builds of modern infrastructure so that the U.S. stays ahead of its future needs for connectivity.

B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts, such as a 401(k) or pension plan.

During my time working at Crown Castle, I contributed to and participated in the company's 401(k) plan, which I maintain today with Charles Schwaab. Neither I nor my former employer have made any further contributions to the defined contribution plan. I also have a Roth IRA and IRA managed by Empower, and a Thrift Savings Plan through my employment at the FCC.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association, or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain.

No.

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

None.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

None.

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

None.

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

During my time as an FCC employee between 2021 and today, I have worked on a wide-range of communications law issues and have been asked on occasion to review or discuss legislative proposals, but I have never actively lobbied in favor or against a specific piece of legislation to Congressional members or staff, or otherwise.

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, an Inspector General, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group?

   If yes:

   a. Provide the name of the court, agency, association, committee, or group;
   b. Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;
   c. Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action;
   d. Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.

No.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, municipal, or foreign government entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No.

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain.

No.

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No.

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual assault, sexual harassment, or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

No.

6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination.

None.

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency/commission/corporation complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency/commission/corporation endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority?

Yes.

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency/commission/corporation does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistleblowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures?

Yes.

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee?

Yes.

4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so?

Yes.

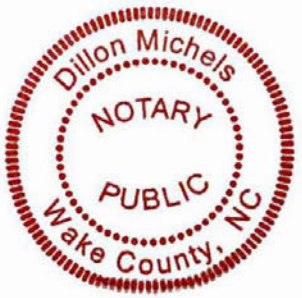
F. AFFIDAVIT

Danielle Thumann Severs being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of his/her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.

Danielle Thumann Severs
Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this 25th day of Aug, 2026.

Dillon Michels
Notary Public



Danielle Thumann
[redacted]

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Counsel to Chairman Brendan Carr **1/2025 – Present**
Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C.
Advise FCC Chairman Brendan Carr on matters before the Wireline, Consumer and Governmental Affairs, and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureaus; advance the Chairman's Build America agenda by implementing policies to unleash infrastructure deployment, to increase integrity in the FCC's programs and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse, and to streamline regulations and modernize agency operations; advance consumer protection and public safety priorities including combatting illegal robocalls.

Legal Advisor to Commissioner Brendan Carr **3/2021 – 7/2023; 8/2024 – 12/2024**
Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C.
Advised Commissioner Carr on a variety of wireline, wireless, and public safety issues, with a particular focus on permitting reform and promoting effective universal service policies; coordinated with other leadership offices and agency bureaus on active rulemakings and proceedings; prepared speeches and statements for Commissioner Carr; and assisted in managing office's relationships with other government stakeholders and outside groups.

Senior Attorney, Government Relations **7/2023 – 7/2024**
Crown Castle Inc., Cary, N.C.
Provided legal counsel to internal clients regarding municipal and utility infrastructure access and attachment rights, state and federal rules and regulations, and network operations; advocated before other attorneys, policymakers, and officials on behalf of the company to further deployment objectives; drafted and negotiated franchise and other agreements; reviewed and analyzed bills, rules, and regulations at all government levels.

Part-Time Adjunct Professor **8/2022 – 7/2023**
The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, Washington, D.C.
Co-taught a Technology and Communications Law Practicum designed to provide students with a practical overview of the work done in the field of technology and communications law.

Associate Attorney **9/2016 – 3/2021**
Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP, Washington, D.C.
Advised communications and technology clients on a variety of regulatory, policy, and transactional issues before the FCC and state regulatory entities with a special focus on spectrum policy, public safety, and infrastructure.

ASSOCIATIONS AND LEADERSHIP

Member and Co-Chair of the Federalist Society's Communications and Technology Practice Group Executive Committee (2016-present); Member of the Republican National Lawyers Association (2013-present); Treasurer of the FCBA Foundation's Executive Board (2023-2026); Co-Chair of the FCBA's Women's Leadership Committee (2021-2024); Co-Chair of the FCBA's National Moot Court Competition Committee (2017-2021); Former President of the Columbus School of Law's Law & Technology Institute Alumni Association (2019-2020)

EDUCATION

The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, Washington, D.C.
Juris Doctor, *Cum Laude*; Certificate from Institute for Communications Law Studies, May 2016
Maintained Dean's List Standing; Associate Editor of Volume 65 of the Catholic University Law Review

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
Bachelor of Arts, Foreign Affairs, May 2013
Part of the 2.6% of 2013 graduates to achieve B.A. in three years