

This book is dedicated to Alan Pearce (1937–2016).

Alan was a professor of mine at George Washington University in 1981 and 1982, though we first met in the fall of 1977 in Atlanta at the World Telecommunication Exposition staged by Horizon House Publications, Inc. To serve as one of three committee chairmen over my master's thesis, Alan became an adjunct professor at University of Colorado in 1983. Alan remained a friend and mentor since then until the Lord took him too early in the summer of 2016.

Alan's mission for forty-six years, as chief economist at the Federal Communications Commission under chairmen Dean Burch and Richard Wiley, a member of the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications, the chief economist at the White House Office of Telecom Policy, a professor at the University of Maryland and George Washington University, and a professional consultant at Information Age Economics, was to ensure that ordinary people could access modern telecommunications and to strengthen our nation's telecommunications industry in the public interest, convenience, and necessity. We worked on some projects together and talked about doing more work together developing wireless infrastructure.

Alan had a reporter's ability to frame political issues in economic context. His grasp included creation of the NFL Blackout Rule, efforts to curb abuses in children's television programming in 1972, the antitrust investigation of AT&T in the early 1970s leading to the 1984 breakup of the Bell System's monopoly, and razor-clear analyses of corporate acquisitions over the past twenty years. Through it all, Alan's strong personal and intellectual integrity was of foremost importance. He was not one to retract his findings for political purposes. Even so, he prospered as a consultant. He applied sound principles to rock-solid data to reach his conclusions.

*(This dedication includes excerpts from Alan's memorial service presentation by Steve France, September 2016.)*