**Chapter 12**

**Chapter Overview**

After describing the legal framework and foundations for free speech in the media, this chapter examines the regulation of electronic media and the creation of the Federal Communications Commission. It then considers the regulation of commercial and political speech in addition to protections afforded children’s programming. The following sections discuss intellectual property rights, privacy, and legal issues in the digital world.

After reading the chapter, you should be able to do the following:

* Examine the nature of freedom of speech and press and how media are regulated in the United States.
* Describe the key legal concepts protecting and restricting freedom of speech and press, including threats to national security, libel, and censorship.
* Discuss the principal legislation that defines communication regulation in the United States and the principal federal communications regulatory agency, the Federal Communications Commission.
* Outline the regulation of content in the United States, especially regarding commercial speech and political speech.
* Explain intellectual property issues, especially copyright, and how the digital age has affected them.

**Review/Essay Questions**

1. Define fair use and explain the factors that determine whether the use of another's copyrighted work is legal. Why is the issue of fair use described as a flash point for digital media?
2. Describe the key legal concepts protecting and restricting freedom of speech and press.