

The morning of the first day began with a keynote address by Michael Altschul, Senior Vice President of Policy and Administration, and General Counsel for the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA). Mr. Altschul discussed the role of wireless communications for federal and government users. He discussed recent litigation regarding wireless health concerns – stating that the case was dismissed because of lack of credible evidence that wireless causes brain tumors. This case is significant because it was the first opportunity for a Federal court to study current findings regarding wireless health concerns.

Since 9/11, wireless has been recognized as critical infrastructure. The fractured/diverse wireless marketplace in the United States proved to be an asset, allowing for no single point of failure. Also, since 9/11, wireless security is increasing in importance.

Mr. Altschul discussed the different initiatives that CTIA is involved. CTIA participates on initiatives such as the Wireless Emergency Response Team (WERT), the Network Reliability Interoperability Council, National Communications System/National Coordinating Center. CTIA also participates in efforts regarding wireless policy. Namely, CTIA has two policy arenas – spectrum and policy mandates.