

AEREO WATCH: LETS GET IT ON

BROADCASTERS AND AEREO will finally get their day in front of the Supreme Court, as Tuesday marks the beginning of oral arguments in the case that will determine the fate of the OTT streaming video service. Here's a roundup of the latest Aereo news:



Kanojia

■ Aereo founder and CEO Chet Kanojia made his final comments before the case begins. On C-SPAN's Communicators, he described broadcasters' arguments against Aereo as baseless and "insane," and suggested cable was a monopoly that was pricing itself out of the market. In a wide-ranging interview with Yahoo's Katie Couric, Kanojia labeled the Justice Department's position, which backs broadcasters, "incorrect and misguided."

■ IAC chairman Barry Diller, a minority investor in Aereo, argued in a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed that broadcasters don't own the airwaves and shouldn't be allowed to keep viewers from watching free TV on the device of their choice. Diller also took aim at the Obama administration for backing broadcasters in the fight, saying "Broadcasters have now corralled the White House into joining their efforts to crush any innovation that challenges the status quo and the industry's lucrative business model."

■ In response to questions from customers about the case, Aereo launched an advocacy website, protectmyantenna.org, that will provide court briefs, amicus briefs and court decisions related to the case. —*B&C staff*

To follow all the latest news from the Supreme Court case, go to *B&C's* one-stop shop at broadcastingcable.com/Aereo.



ADHD's Axe Cop

FOX SCRAPS ANIMATION DOMINATION HD SATURDAY PROGRAMMING BLOCK

As *B&C* first reported, Fox is taking its underperforming Animation Domination HD programming block off the air Saturday nights. Its last night will be June 28.

The ADHD brand will continue on digital platforms, including FoxADHD.com. New programs will be hatched as part of the brand with hopes that they will graduate to primetime, said a Fox representative, and two that were "incubated" in ADHD will air in prime next year. The Fox rep stressed that late night was never designed as the ultimate destination for ADHD content.

Fox executives first mentioned the move at an affiliates body meeting during the NAB Show in Las Vegas.

Citing Fox's request that affiliates not speak with the media on the meeting's contents, station leaders were reluctant to speak on the record, though they did not sound sorry to see the ADHD program block go. Some had tired of fielding calls from upset viewers.

One station exec said the decision to scrap ADHD might affect revenue in larger markets but would not move the needle in his DMA. "It's too late on Saturday to generate big bucks," the exec said. —*Michael Malone*

STAT OF THE WEEK

82 CENTS Amount that female TV writers made for every \$1 earned by male writers in 2012, up from 77 cents in 2009, according to the 2014 Hollywood Writers Report from the Writers Guild of America. The study covered employment data for writers working on WGA contracts through 2012. For more about women in the TV industry, see our Cover Story beginning on page 8.

LISTEN IN)))

B&C and *MCN* present the latest in the TV Biz Webinar series, "The Autohopper Case," moderated by Jimmy Schaeffler, *MCN* contributor and chairman of the Carmel Group. The webinar will examine the legality of Dish Network's "AutoHop" feature and look at how much leeway distributors can give individual consumers when it comes to controlling their programming. For registration info, go to broadcastingcable.com/April21.



Handler

"I have never had nor will have any desire to take a job someone else has already had. Speculation to the contrary is inaccurate. Godspeed"

@chelseahandler, Chelsea Handler, on April 16 denying she had any interest in occupying the 11:30 p.m. slot at Comedy Central that will soon be vacated by Stephen Colbert. Handler also dismissed rumors she was in discussions with CBS for a new talk show, possibly replacing Craig Ferguson at 12:35 a.m.

Fox: Timothy White/EI

THEY SAID IT!

"The pilot process is so wasteful. If you believe in someone and what they want to do, give it a shot. Go for it. It's actually in a lot of ways cheaper if you can amortize across 13 episodes."



—*Orange Is the New Black* creator Jenji Kohan during the Hollywood Radio and Television Society's "Hitmakers" panel on April 16, taking aim at the industry's pilot process.

FATES & FORTUNES NAT GEO SHAKEUP: HILL, MONROE IN; LYLE, OWENS OUT

Last week saw a major shakeup among the executive ranks at National Geographic Channels U.S., which began with Nat Geo president Howard T. Owens announcing April 14 that he will step down in June. The very next morning, Nat Geo said it was bringing on 21st Century Fox senior executive VP David Hill as chairman and replacing CEO David Lyle with Courtney Monroe. A successor to Owens was not named. —*Jon Lafayette*