



United States Merit Systems Protection Board

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MSPB AWARDED CERTIFICATE FOR COMPLETION OF WHISTLEBLOWER EDUCATION PROGRAM

In a presentation held in the Board's executive offices on March 14, 2006, Special Counsel Scott J. Bloch presented the Merit Systems Protection Board with a certificate for completion of the Office of Special Counsel's program to educate Federal employees about their rights and remedies under the provisions of the Whistleblower Protection Act (WPA). Chairman Neil A.G. McPhie accepted the certificate on behalf of MSPB employees. Both Vice Chairman Mary M. Rose and Member Barbara J. Sapin were among the MSPB staff in attendance.

This is the second certificate awarded to the Board by the Special Counsel as provided for under 5 U.S.C. § 2302(c). The Board previously was certified in September 2002—the first Federal agency to be certified after completion of OSC's pilot program. The MSPB is the first agency to be re-certified in the OSC five-step education program. OSC certifies an agency's compliance with § 2302(c) when it meets five requirements: 1. placing information posters about the Whistleblowers Protection Act (WPA) at agency facilities; 2. providing information about WPA protections to new employees as part of their orientation process; 3. providing periodic information to current employees about their rights and remedies under the WPA; 4. providing WPA training for supervisors; and 5. creating a hyperlink from the agency website to the OSC website.

In his remarks, Special Counsel Bloch emphasized the public service value of Federal employees who report instances of fraud, waste and abuse—an aspect of whistleblowing that often is unrecognized and under appreciated.

In accepting the certificate, MSPB Chairman Neil A.G. McPhie stated that, "Since one of MSPB's primary missions is to enforce merit systems principles, it is especially important that all MSPB employees have a full awareness and understanding of the rights and remedies available to whistleblowers."

The Board is an independent, quasi-judicial agency with responsibility for deciding Federal employee appeals from personnel actions taken against them, for protecting the integrity of the civil service and other Federal merit systems, and conducting studies of the civil service and other merit systems in the Executive Branch. Additional information on the Board is available on the Board's website at www.mspb.gov.

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