



Merit Systems Protection Board

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MSPB LAUNCHES e-APPEAL AND e-FILING

In support of the President's E-Government initiatives and goals, the Merit Systems Protection Board announces two new initiatives, e-Appeal and e-Filing. The e-Appeal process allows Federal appellants to initiate appeals of agency actions online from the MSPB website -- www.mspb.gov/e-appeal.html. In a secure, online environment, appellants are presented with an interactive version of the MSPB appeal form that they complete, as if being interviewed, by responding to a series of questions. Their responses to the questions determine the course of the "interview," thereby ensuring that MSPB obtains the information necessary to adjudicate the appeal most expeditiously. This should result in more timely decisions.

e-Appeal also includes electronic links to the Board's regulations, guidance, and answers to commonly asked questions. Appellants may submit supporting documents to the Board by attaching them to the electronic appeal form. The process need not be completed in a single session. Appellants may sign off, saving a partially completed form, and return at a later time to finish the process. Chairman Susanne Marshall stated, "As a new product for our Federal customers, the e-Appeal process should prove to be an important service improvement. Even if an appellant ultimately elects not to use the e-Appeal process, we believe that appellants, their representatives, and agency representatives, will find it a helpful guide to MSPB adjudication and related laws and regulations."

In the related initiative, e-Filing, MSPB now gives parties engaged in proceedings before the Board the option of electronic filing; i.e., to send, receive, and exchange pleadings and other documents by electronic mail (e-mail). Parties may sign

up for e-Filing with the appropriate Board office. Since a large proportion of the parties who appear before the MSPB are non-attorneys, MSPB constructed the e-Filing process so that it requires little in the way of specialized equipment, software, or expertise. Parties may still continue to submit documents by conventional means.

e-Appeal and e-Filing will make it easier for appellants, agency representatives, and other interested parties to obtain services and to interact with the MSPB. The Board expects a general improvement in its efficiency, effectiveness, and responsiveness to the Federal community.

The MSPB is an independent, quasi-judicial agency with responsibility for deciding Federal employee appeals from personnel actions taken against them, 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.

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