



Merit Systems Protection Board

Contact: Arlin Winefordner
(202) 653-6772, ext. 1162
V/TDD 1-800-877-8339
(Federal Relay Service)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2009

Merit Systems Protection Board 2009 Honors Awards Program

The MSPB Honors Awards Program is an agency program designed to recognize MSPB staff for outstanding performance and superior accomplishments. Each award recipient, individual or group, was nominated by the respective Office Director with Chairman Neil A.G. McPhie making the final selection. Award winners were announced on April 30 at the 2009 MSPB Legal Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Chairman's Award for Legal Excellence was received by seven MSPB employees for their demonstrated superior achievement in legal ability or performance. They are: Howard Ansoorge, Administrative Judge, Central Regional Office; Michael Carney, Attorney, Office of the General Counsel; Thomas Cook, Administrative Judge, Washington Regional Office; Charles Hanclich, Attorney Advisor, Office of Appeals Counsel; Arthur Joseph, Chief Administrative Judge, New York Field Office; James Read, Director of the Office of Appeals Counsel; and, Linda Schweizer, Attorney Advisor, Office of Appeals Counsel. A group award in this category was given to Administrative Judge Stuart Miller, Administrative Judge Lynn Yovino, and Paralegal Supervisor Connie Sexton of the Atlanta Regional Office for their significant contributions in support of the MSPB's Paralegal Program.

The Chairman's Award for Managerial Excellence was given to Chad Bungard, MSPB General Counsel, and Melissa Jurgens, Legal Counsel for the Clerk of the Board, for their demonstrated excellence in the performance of their managerial responsibilities. The group award in this category was given to: Deborah Miron, Tommy Hwang, Chad Bungard, and Marion Hines, members of the MSPB Performance Review Board, who were recognized with for their efforts in rewriting the performance standards for MSPB's SES performance system which resulted in full certification for the MSPB.

Elva Barnett, Venessa Gray, and Charles Nimmons, paralegal staff of the Office of Appeals Counsel, received the Chairman's Award for Organizational Excellence for their effective teamwork in handling the extensive range of paralegal, case tracking, and administrative functions in MSPB's largest office. Individual awards in this category were received by Annette Butler, Policy and Evaluation Specialist, Office of Policy and Evaluation; Craig Thomas, Web Manager, Office of Information Resources Management, and Dinh Chung, Case Processing Specialist, Office of the Clerk of the Board.

Chairman McPhie bestowed the Award for Equal Employment Opportunity Excellence on Anne Marrelli, Research Psychologist, Office of Policy and Evaluation, and Charlene Proctor, Acting Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, for their outstanding performance and accomplishments in the support and promotion of Equal Employment Programs.

Finally, the Chairman's Award for Communications Excellence for demonstrated superior performance and work that significantly enhances the MSPB's reputation was given to James Tsugawa, Human Resources Specialist, Office of Policy and Evaluation, and Administrative Judge Richard Vitaris, Atlanta Regional Office. The group award for communications excellence was given to members of the MSPB Mediation Appeals Program (MAP) – Deborah Miron, Director of the Office of Regional Operations and MAP Coordinator; Michael Bogdanow, MAP Liaison; and Cynthia Boston, MAP Regional Operations Coordinator (on behalf of the mediators) for the continuing success of the MAP program, which has mediated an increasing number of cases since its inception in FY 2005.

The Theodore Roosevelt Award recognizes a Merit Systems Protection Board employee who has demonstrated distinguished leadership in support of the MSPB mission to protect the Federal merit systems. Chairman McPhie announced two awardees—Tracey D. Watkins, MSPB Chief of Staff, and Charles Roche, Director, Office of Financial and Administrative Management.

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. You may visit the MSPB on its website at www.mspb.gov.

- END -