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MSPB RELEASES FY 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

The U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) recently posted its [Annual Report](#) for FY 2010. In accordance with Title 5 U.S.C. § 1206, the report includes summaries of the most significant Board decisions and relevant court opinions issued during the year, case processing statistics, summaries of MSPB's merit systems studies and a review of the significant actions of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). According to Chairman Grundmann, "The Annual Report is a rich source of information about our successful work in FY 2010, and as a service to our stakeholders, it also includes timely information about important activities and events that occurred in early FY 2011."

The agency took significant actions beginning in FY 2010 to improve the [transparency](#) of its adjudication processes and decisions at headquarters. For the first time in 24 years, the Board heard oral arguments in two sets of cases with broad impact on the merit systems. In addition, the Board began issuing expanded explanations of its rationale in non-published decisions on petitions for review. The significant Board decisions issued in FY 2010 addressed issues relating to adverse actions, jurisdiction, retirement, discrimination, veterans' rights, whistleblower protection, compliance, and Board procedures. The report also includes summaries of four significant Board decisions issued in early FY 2011 including the decisions resulting from the oral arguments, and important decisions relating to the Federal Career Intern Program (FCIP) and to whistleblowing.

The FY 2010 Annual Report includes summaries of external [merit systems study reports](#) dealing with a variety of topics, including supervisory preparedness, prohibited personnel practices, Federal employee competencies and how to obtain them, and whistleblowing protections and the law. Several longstanding MSPB policy recommendations were included in the President's 2010 hiring reform initiative, introduced through the President's memorandum on *Improving the Federal Recruitment and Hiring Process* including, among others, improving the quality of job announcements and replacing the "rule of three" with category rating.

The report summarizes MSPB's review of OPM significant actions such as their role in the President's hiring reform initiative, their support of agency labor-management forums, and their actions on FCIP and the hiring students and recent graduates. The review of OPM actions on FCIP included significant actions taken in early FY 2011, namely decisions on FCIP issued by the Board in November 2010, Presidential Executive Order 13562 released in December 2010, and OPM guidance on the Executive Order issued in January 2011.

MSPB's Annual Report for FY 2010 is available at www.mspb.gov.

The U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) is an independent, quasi-judicial agency that protects Federal merit systems and the rights of individuals within those systems. The MSPB also conducts studies of the civil service and other merit systems in the Executive Branch.