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**U.S. MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD (MSPB) HOSTS  
FEDERAL SECTOR EEO PRACTITIONERS SESSION:  
“INTRODUCTION TO MSPB”**

On Wednesday, July 27, MSPB facilitated a two-hour educational session entitled *Introduction to MSPB* at the agency’s headquarters in Washington, DC. The MSPB has conducted educational sessions in the past; however, what made this one different is the agency’s efforts to reach out specifically to Federal sector equal employment opportunity (EEO) practitioners. The session represented another in a series of outreach efforts with various stakeholders.

In her opening remarks, Chairman Susan Tsui Grundmann explained, “The EEO community has day-to-day direct contact with employees and supervisors at every agency, and they are in a unique position to educate agency employees on the various venues to which they can take their concerns. The EEO community can serve as a partner with MSPB and help ensure that Federal agencies create workplaces where the merit system principles of equity and fairness are upheld, and prohibited personnel practices are non-existent.”

Presenters included attorney Michael Bogdanow, Office of Regional Operations (ORO); Administrative Judge (AJ) Ron Weiss, ORO; and Cynthia Ferentinos, PhD, Office of Policy and Evaluation (OPE). Topics covered during the session included agency jurisdiction, mixed cases, a review of the merit system principles, prohibited personnel practices, and recent OPE studies. In addition, AJ Weiss described MSPB’s appeals and hearing process, and provided

participants with a unique opportunity to speak directly to an MSPB administrative judge.

A similar educational session will be offered at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Examining Conflict in Employment Law" conference in Baltimore, MD, August 16-19, 2011. In response to the strong interest in last week's presentations, MSPB also plans a session on October 19, 2011 at the agency's headquarters in Washington, DC. All interested Federal EEO practitioners should contact Jerry Beat, MSPB's EEO Director, at [jerry.beat@mspb.gov](mailto:jerry.beat@mspb.gov) or 202-254-4405.

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.