



Contact: James Eisenmann
(202) 653-7200
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MSPB RELEASES FY 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Today, the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) releases its Annual Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. In accordance with [Title 5 U.S.C. § 1206](#), the report includes summaries of MSPB's significant activities and a review of the significant actions of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). According to Vice Chairman Mark A. Robbins, "The Annual Report is the best source for detailed information about our significant actions during FY 2017."

The most significant issue facing the Board is the lack of a quorum that began on January 8, 2017. The lack of a quorum prevents the Board from issuing decisions on petitions for review (PFRs) and other cases at headquarters, and from issuing reports of merit systems studies. It also prevents the Board from promulgating regulations in response to Congressional changes in our jurisdiction or processes.

Nonetheless, we continue to function in every way possible within those limitations. The Board's administrative judges (AJs) continue to adjudicate initial appeals, conduct hearings, and issue decisions in those cases. The Board continues to receive PFRs and to draft recommended decisions in those cases. The Vice Chairman continues to review and vote on those cases, which then await the new Board members' arrival. The Board's Office of Policy and Evaluation continues to administer and analyze surveys, conduct research on the merit systems, and draft new reports for Board member review and approval once a quorum is restored. The Board's executive, financial, and administrative operations also continue to function. As a result, MSPB continues to further its critical mission during this time of significant transition.

The FY 2017 Annual Report contains summaries of significant Board decisions and opinions issued by our reviewing Courts. Case processing data for initial appeals and PFRs are also provided. However, PFR case processing statistics cover decisions released while the Board had a quorum, or just slightly longer than the first quarter of the year.

Therefore, FY 2017 PFR case processing data will not be comparable to similar data in previous annual reports.

The Annual Report also includes a summary of the one merit systems studies report on adverse actions issued in FY 2017, three editions of the *Issues of Merit* newsletter, and three 'Noteworthy' articles on addressing misconduct, managing under the merit system principles, and review processes for major disciplinary actions. In addition, the report includes summaries of OPM's significant actions in FY 2017, including: new regulations on the annual employee survey requirement and the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey; reforming the Federal government and reshaping the Federal workforce; the framework for developing senior executives; and the survey of Federal work-life programs.

Summaries of MSPB's congressional, legislative, international, outreach activities, and citations of our work, as well as brief summaries of the internal management challenges and external factors that may affect MSPB's functions, are also included.

The MSPB Annual Report for FY 2017 is available on MSPB's webpage at <https://www.mspb.gov>.

The U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) is an independent, quasi-judicial agency whose mission is to protect the Merit System Principles and promote an effective Federal workforce free of Prohibited Personnel Practices.