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MSPB ANNOUNCES PFR MEDIATION PILOT PROGRAM WITH FMCS

Since the restoration of its quorum on March 4, 2022, the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) has recommitted itself to issuing high-quality decisions on petitions for review (PFRs) as efficiently as possible. As part of this effort, on October 3, 2022, MSPB will launch a pilot program targeting particular categories of PFRs for rapid mediation. The program will be called the PFR Rapid Assessment Mediation Program (PFR RAMP) and will be offered in cases in which changed case law or other factors suggest a likely path for mediated resolution. PFR RAMP will be staffed by two full-time mediators, including an experienced mediator on detail to MSPB from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS). MSPB's long-standing PFR settlement program will continue to operate alongside the pilot program and will focus on cases in which a more prolonged settlement approach is favored.

Like MSPB's other alternative dispute resolution (ADR) programs, PFR RAMP will be voluntary, confidential, and free to the parties. The program will be invitation-only, based on a determination by the assigned mediators that cases have rapid settlement potential under the factors listed above. Parties seeking ADR of their PFRs may contact the standard PFR settlement program at 1-800-209-8960. If, after such contact, MSPB's mediators determine that a case has potential for rapid mediation, the parties may be contacted by PFR RAMP.

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.

The U.S. Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service (FMCS) is the nation's premier public agency for dispute resolution and conflict management. FMCS was created by Congress as a neutral and independent government agency upon enactment of the Labor-Management Relations Act of 1947 (Taft-Hartley Act) and mandated to resolve industrial conflict and promote labor-management peace and cooperation, minimizing the impact of these disputes on the free flow of commerce. With headquarters in Washington, D.C. and offices across the country, the agency has a proud track record of decades of effective dispute resolution and conflict management services for employers and unions across industries and work activities in the private, public, and federal sectors. FMCS is also recognized for its success facilitating negotiated rulemaking processes and for its robust employment mediation program in the federal sector as well as its global program, partnering with more than 60 countries to provide international consulting and training. For more on FMCS or to request services, visit www.fmcs.gov.