



July 19, 2012

Via Email:
mspb@mspb.gov

William D. Spencer
Clerk of the Board
Merit Systems Protection Board
1615 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20419

Re: Comments Regarding Proposed Rule

Dear Mr. Spencer:

The National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Merit System Protection Board's Proposed Rule concerning 5 CFR Parts 1200, 1201, 1203, 1208 and 1209, 77 Fed.Reg. 22,663 (June 7, 2012). NELA is the largest professional membership organization in the country comprised of lawyers who represent employees in labor, employment, wage and hour, and civil rights disputes. NELA advances employee rights and serves lawyers who advocate for equality and justice in the American workplace. NELA and its 68 circuit, state and local affiliates have a membership of over 3,000 attorneys who are committed to working on behalf of those who have been illegally treated in the workplace. To ensure that the rights of working people are protected, NELA has filed numerous *amicus curiae* briefs before the United States Supreme Court and other federal appellate courts regarding the proper interpretation of federal civil rights and worker protection laws, as well as undertaking other advocacy actions on behalf of workers throughout the United States. A substantial number of NELA members' clients are Federal employees, and thus we have an interest in the Proposed Rule.

NELA generally supports the Board's overall proposal to review and update its procedural regulations, and agrees with most of the Board's proposed revisions appearing in the Proposed Rule. We fully endorse and incorporate by reference the comments regarding the Proposed Rule submitted by Joseph V. Kaplan of Passman & Kaplan, P.C. on July 19, 2012. We appreciate the Board's consideration of these comments.

Sincerely yours,

Terisa E. Chaw
Executive Director