



FLRA NEWS

FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY - WASHINGTON, DC 20424

Contact: Sarah Whittle Spooner
202-218-7791

www.flra.gov

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GENERAL COUNSEL PROPOSES REVISIONS TO UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICE REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT PRE-COMPLAINT ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA), Julia Akins Clark, announced a Federal Register notice of proposed rulemaking ([75 Fed. Reg. 5003 \(Feb. 1, 2010\)](#)) revising the unfair labor practice (ULP) regulations to become effective April 1, 2010. “These revisions clarify the Office of the General Counsel’s (OGC) role in facilitating the resolution of disputes and in providing training and educating the FLRA’s customers about their rights and responsibilities under the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute (Statute),” stated General Counsel Julia Akins Clark. “The revisions reestablish the OGC’s leadership role in providing guidance on Alternative Dispute Resolution techniques that will aid in resolving disputes short of litigation. The OGC will use its expertise to foster successful labor-management relations through training of union representatives and agency personnel in dispute resolution and cooperative methods of labor-management relations.” General Counsel Clark also noted that “the proposed amended regulations are consistent with the purposes underlying Executive Order 13522 (EO 13522) on Creating Labor-Management Forums to Improve Delivery of Government Services, issued on December 9, 2009, by President Obama.” Concomitant with the implementation of the revised ULP regulations, General Counsel Clark has convened a task force of OGC employees to revise the OGC’s Unfair Labor Practice Casehandling Manual with a goal of providing all OGC staff with consistent and practical guidance on implementing the policy directives contained in the revised regulations. Once the revisions to the Manual are complete they will be posted on the OGC’s Manuals page at the FLRA web site -- http://www.flra.gov/history_manuals_OGC.

The FLRA administers the labor-management relations program for 1.6 million non-Postal Federal employees worldwide, approximately 1.1 million of whom are represented in 2,200 bargaining units. It is charged with providing leadership in establishing policies and guidance related to Federal sector labor-management relations and with resolving disputes under and ensuring compliance with the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute. The OGC is the FLRA’s independent investigative and prosecutorial component that investigates settles and prosecutes unfair labor practice charges. In addition, the OGC, through its regional offices, supervises union elections and processes representation petitions. The three-member Authority resolves representation cases concerning union elections and bargaining unit determinations.

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