## **U.S. Office of Special Counsel**

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## ANNUAL RESULTS: STRATEGIC GOAL 2 TO FULFILL CONGRESSIONAL INTENT THAT OSC BE MORE AGGRESSIVE IN PROTECTING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES FROM PROHIBITED PERSONNEL PRACTICES, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED REPRISAL FOR WHISTLEBLOWING. FY 2001 Performance Goals FY 2001 Results FY 2000 Results FY 1999 Results 1. Bring before the MSPB more No litigation required due to 2 stays obtained (1 in alleged 3 stays obtained from MSPB agreements by agencies to comply with cases in which OSC believes that a whistleblower reprisal matter) prohibited personnel practice all OSC requests for voluntarily stays 3 enforcement actions filed (1 in (especially reprisal based on and favorable resolutions. 4 enforcement actions filed (1 in alleged whistleblower reprisal whistleblowing) has occurred. alleged whistleblower reprisal matter) matter) 2 enforcement actions favorably resolved by decision/settlement (1 in 6 enforcement actions favorably resolved by decision/settlement alleged whistleblower reprisal (50% in alleged whistleblower matter) reprisal/ 1<sup>st</sup> amendment speech matter) 2. Seek more stays, corrective 13 stays obtained from agencies (85% 11 stays obtained from agencies (82% in 12 stays obtained from agencies (83% in actions, and disciplinary actions in in alleged whistleblower reprisal alleged whistleblower reprisal alleged whistleblower reprisal cases in which OSC believes that a matters) matters) matters) prohibited personnel practice 74 favorable actions<sup>1</sup> obtained from (especially reprisal based on 75 favorable actions obtained from 52 favorable actions obtained from whistleblowing) has occurred. agencies (53% in alleged agencies (68% in alleged agencies (69.2% in alleged whistleblower reprisal matters) whistleblower reprisal matters)<sup>2</sup> whistleblower reprisal matters) [1 additional corrective action in [1 additional corrective action in USERRA matter] USERRA matter]

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Favorable actions" are actions taken to directly benefit the complaining employee; actions to punish, by disciplinary or other corrective action, the supervisor(s) involved in the personnel action; and systemic actions, such as training or educational programs, to prevent future questionable personnel actions. The term encompasses actions taken by an agency: (1) pursuant to a written request by the Special Counsel for corrective action; (2) at the request of OSC as settlement of a prohibited personnel practice complaint before receipt of a written request by the Special Counsel for corrective action; or (3) with knowledge of a pending OSC investigation, when the actions taken satisfactorily resolve matters under inquiry by OSC.

This figure corrects an error in the number shown in the FY 2000 annual performance report.

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## ANNUAL RESULTS: STRATEGIC GOAL 2 (cont'd) TO FULFILL CONGRESSIONAL INTENT THAT OSC BE MORE AGGRESSIVE IN PROTECTING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES FROM PROHIBITED PERSONNEL PRACTICES, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED REPRISAL FOR WHISTLEBLOWING. FY 2001 Performance Goals FY 2001 Results FY 2000 Results FY 1999 Results 3. Identify and enter appearances 1 filing as *amicus* in case involving 1 intervention case on behalf of 2 interventions in related cases in cases in which OSC's expertise standard for protected disclosure employee in case involving allegation involving allegations of reprisal for could enhance protections for applied by administrative judge of reprisal for whistleblowing - led whistleblowing to argue that denial of victims of prohibited personnel (Keefer v. Dept. of Agriculture). MSPB to reverse ruling that had a security clearance is a covered practices, with a particular emphasis restricted scope of protected personnel action under the WPA. disclosures under the Whistleblower on favorable developments in OSC's argument did not prevail. whistleblower protection law.<sup>3</sup> (Roach v. Dept. of the Army / Hesse Protection Act. Ganski v. Dept. of the Interior. v. Dept. of State) 1 filing as amicus in case involving 1 filing as amicus in case involving allegation of reprisal for allegation of reprisal for whistleblowing. OSC argument whistleblowing. Schmittling v. Dept. prevailed. (Keefer v. Dept. of of the Army. Agriculture)

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Special Counsel has placed greater emphasis upon actively influencing the development of the laws that the OSC enforces. Therefore, in addition to remedies sought after receiving complaints, OSC also seeks to uphold legal protections against prohibited personnel practices (especially reprisal for whistleblowing) through active involvement in litigation filed by federal employees – either by intervention in the matter (with the employee's consent), or by the filing of a brief (known as an *amicus* brief) in support of the employee's position.