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

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## ANNUAL RESULTS: STRATEGIC GOAL 2

To fulfill congressional intent that federal and covered state and local employees comply with the Hatch Act's (HA's) restrictions when they engage in political activity.

FY 2002 Performance Goals	FY 2002 Results	FY 2001 Results	FY 2000 Results
Tracking advisory opinions.  Develop modification to OSC 2000 to log and track response time to advisory opinion requests.	• Completed by end of FY 2002 (or start of FY 2003).	[Goal 1 not in FY 2001 plan.]	[Goal 1 not in FY 2000 plan.]
2. Outreach to state and local governments. Working with outreach specialist, develop and implement a written plan to specifically target HA outreach to appropriate state and local government groups and associations.	<ul> <li>Working with outreach specialist, developed HA fact sheet for state and local employees, disseminated fact sheet to targeted state and local groups and associations, and placed fact sheet on OSC web site.</li> <li>Wrote article on HA for National League of Cities newsletter.</li> <li>Worked with National Organization of Counties on newsletter article about the HA.</li> <li>Addressed annual conference of National Association of Secretaries of State on HA.</li> <li>Featured HA news on OSC web site banner</li> </ul>	[Goal 2 not in FY 2001 plan.]	[Goal 2 not in FY 2000 plan.]
3. Web site update. Review current postings of selected HA advisory opinions on OSC web-site, and revise and update as necessary.	<ul> <li>Reviewed postings to ensure appropriate revisions made when necessary; 39 HA advisory opinions posted include seven posted in FY 2002.</li> <li>Created internal indexing system for HA advisory opinions, integrated with Word, to facilitate indexing as opinion is written.</li> </ul>	Updated HA advisory opinions on web site.	<ul> <li>Posted outline of HA provisions on OSC web site (used by several agencies to e-mail HA information to employees).</li> <li>Posted outline of HA provisions on OSC web site (used by several agencies to e-mail HA information to employees).</li> <li>Added information about HA advisory opinions on recurring questions.</li> </ul>

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FY 2002 Performance Goals	FY 2002 Results	FY 2001 Results	FY 2000 Results		
4. Quality and timeliness standards.  Develop clearly identified, written quality and timeliness standards applicable to HA investigations and legal analyses, devise measurement system, and incorporate in employees' performance plans.	Began drafting written quality and timeliness standards as basis for initial quality review of HA matters.	[Goal 4 not in FY 2001 plan.]	[Goal 4 not in FY 2000 plan.]		
5. Case tracking system. Develop system within OSC 2000 for recording within the HA matter profile a code denoting OSC's belief that a violation has been established, and a capability to track the issuance of warning letters, or penalties resulting from	• OSC reports created to track warning letters, cure letters, and actions taken in response to such letters (e.g., withdrawal from race).	[Goal 5 not in FY 2001 plan.]	[Goal 5 not in FY 2000 plan.]		

#### Other FY 2002 Results

• HA Unit attorneys (two) -

such matters.

- $\circ~$  issued approximately 3,245 opinions to requesters, 16% increase over opinions issued during FY 2001;
- o resolved 107 HA complaints (213 new complaints filed, compared to 185 in FY 2001, when complaints nearly doubled prior year receipts: FY 2000 98; FY 1999 71);
- o issued 49 warning letters compliance achieved by corrective actions including withdrawal of 12 individuals from partisan political races, and resignation of five others from HA-covered employment;
- o completed revisions to OSC web site text on HA, based on comments from the public; and
- $\circ$  made more than 20 outreach presentations to federal agencies on employees' rights and responsibilities under the act.
- OSC filed four complaints seeking disciplinary action for HA violations with the MSPB.
- MSPB issued favorable decisions in four HA cases (including cases filed before FY 2002).
- Many cases handled by HA unit generated significant media interest and public awareness.