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OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL FILES COMPLAINT FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST UNITED STATES GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEE FOR HATCH ACT VIOLATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, DC/March 3, 2010 – Yesterday, the United States Office of Special Counsel (OSC) filed a complaint with the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) requesting that a Business Analyst with the United States General Services Administration (GSA) receive disciplinary action, up to removal from his employment, for engaging in political activity prohibited by the Hatch Act. An investigation conducted by OSC found evidence that the GSA employee engaged in prohibited political activity, including soliciting political contributions and e-mailing promotional material in association with the 2008 Presidential election. The e-mails were sent to other federal employees and federal contractors and, among other things, included information about volunteer opportunities for then-Presidential candidate Barack Obama’s campaign. The GSA employee engaged in this activity while on duty and while in a government building.

Thus, OSC’s investigation found evidence that the GSA employee violated three Hatch Act prohibitions – the prohibition against soliciting, accepting or receiving political contributions from any person, the prohibition against engaging in political activity while on duty, and the prohibition against engaging in political activity while in a room or building occupied in the discharge of official duties by an individual employed in the Government of the United States. Accordingly, OSC has filed a complaint with the MSPB, seeking disciplinary action with respect to the GSA employee for knowingly violating the Hatch Act.

OSC is an independent investigative and prosecutorial agency with jurisdiction to enforce the Hatch Act. OSC is authorized to provide advisory opinions on the Hatch Act and enforces the provisions of the Act by investigating allegations of violations and filing petitions for disciplinary action such as the one described above. For more information, visit our website at www.osc.gov or call 1-800-85-HATCH.