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## OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL FILES HATCH ACT COMPLAINT AGAINST DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EMPLOYEE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, DC/February 17, 2011 – On February 15, 2011, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) filed a complaint with the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) requesting that an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) receive disciplinary action, up to removal from her employment, for engaging in political activity prohibited by the Hatch Act. An investigation conducted by OSC found evidence that the DOJ employee engaged in prohibited political activity, including accepting and/or receiving partisan political contributions from subordinate employees, and using staff to help her efforts to assist a partisan political campaign.

Thus, OSC's investigation found evidence that the DOJ employee violated four Hatch Act prohibitions – soliciting, accepting or receiving political contributions from any person; engaging in political activity while on duty; 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; and using one's official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election. In order to fulfill its mission to safeguard the merit system, OSC has filed a complaint with the MSPB, seeking disciplinary action for the employee's knowing violation of the Hatch Act.

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*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](http://www.osc.gov) or call 1-800-85-HATCH.*