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House of Representatives

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Omar Ashmawy Named Staff Director and Chief Counsel of the OCE

The Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) has named Omar Ashmawy the Staff Director and Chief Counsel. Mr. Ashmawy previously was the acting Staff Director and had been the office's first Deputy Director.

Mr. Ashmawy, one of the first hires made by the OCE, completed eight years of active duty service in the United States Air Force immediately before joining the Office. Assigned to the Judge Advocate General Corps, he worked as a prosecutor and a defense counsel representing both the U.S. government and active duty military members in a wide range of criminal and administrative matters. His final assignment was with the Office of the Chief Prosecutor, Office of Military Commissions, where he prosecuted U.S. v. Hamdan, the first litigated U.S. war crimes tribunal since World War II's Nuremberg. His last commendation before leaving active duty praised Mr. Ashmawy as being "in the forefront of the global war on terror" and he has earned, among others, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Mr. Ashmawy received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from The George Washington University in Washington D.C., and he received his Juris Doctor from the The George Washington University School of Law.

"The board is delighted that Omar Ashmawy will continue to apply his talents and experience to OCE's work," said Porter Goss, Chairman of the Board of the OCE. David E. Skaggs, Co-Chairman of the Board, commented that "with Omar's leadership, OCE will continue the work assigned to it for the 112th Congress."

The OCE, established by the House of Representatives, is an independent, non-partisan entity charged with reviewing allegations of misconduct against House members, staff and, when appropriate, referring matters to the House Ethics Committee.