



FLRA NEWS

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FLRA ISSUES UPDATED GUIDE TO ARBITRATION

The Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) announces that, on September 30, 2016, the Authority – the FLRA’s three-Member, decisional component – issued an updated **Guide to Arbitration Under the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute** (the Guide). This is the first time that the Authority has updated the Guide since February of 2013. And it is yet another important effort in support of the FLRA’s 2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan, which seeks in relevant part to carry out the FLRA’s mission of promoting stable, constructive federal-sector labor-management relations by providing leadership and guidance through education.

FLRA Chairman Carol Waller Pope stated, “The update to the Guide is an important step in the FLRA’s continued strategic efforts to better serve our customers by providing educational and other tools, so that the parties may have meaningful, clear, and up-to-date guidance for the processing of cases before the Authority.”

The updated Guide, which is available on the FLRA’s recently redesigned **website**, takes into account the hundreds of decisions that the Authority has issued since it regained its quorum in November of 2013. Further, in order to improve readability – and consistent with the formatting of the Authority’s **Guide to Negotiability Under the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute** and the Authority’s decisions over the past several years – the Authority revamped the Guide’s formatting by moving legal citations to footnotes. As with previous versions, the updated version of the Guide discusses, with cites to relevant case law, matters such as: the scope of the negotiated grievance procedure; the procedural and substantive requirements for filing arbitration exceptions and oppositions with the Authority; the legal standards of review that the Authority applies in arbitration cases; the requirements for complying with arbitration awards; and judicial review of Authority decisions in arbitration cases.

The FLRA administers the labor-management-relations program for 2.1 million non-Postal federal employees worldwide, approximately 1.2 million of whom are represented in 2,200 bargaining units. It is charged with providing leadership in establishing policies and guidance related to federal-sector labor-management relations and with resolving disputes under, and ensuring compliance with, the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute.

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