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MSPB WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER HENRY J. KERNER

The Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) welcomes new Board Member Henry J. Kerner, who was sworn in today by Chairman Cathy Harris. Member Kerner was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate on May 14, 2024, after being renominated by President Biden on January 8, 2024. His term expires on March 1, 2030.

Chairman Cathy Harris said, "We are very grateful to once again have a full Board, and particularly excited about Henry joining us. Among other things, he is the first person to have served as Special Counsel and now as a Board member. Henry's previous experience as Special Counsel will be a valuable asset to the Board and will help us in our mission to protect the merit systems."

Vice Chairman Ray Limon added, "I've appreciated getting to know Henry and admired his leadership at OSC. I'm looking forward to collaborating with him now as a colleague, and I welcome him as he joins MSPB's amazing team."

Previously, Member Kerner was the Special Counsel of the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) from October 2017 until October 2023. As Special Counsel, he implemented new processes and procedures aimed at improving OSC response time to whistleblower complaints and streamlining the handling of prohibited personnel practice (PPP) investigations. Under his leadership, OSC set new agency records for the number of favorable actions achieved on behalf of whistleblowers.

Member Kerner graduated from Harvard Law School and spent 18 years working as a career prosecutor, primarily in Compton, California. In 2011, he joined the staff of the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform where, under Chairman Darrell Issa and later Chairman Jason Chaffetz, he led investigations of the Federal bureaucracy and advocated on behalf of whistleblowers to protect American taxpayers. Mr. Kerner also served as staff director under Ranking Member Sen. John McCain of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

MSPB also welcomes Member Kerner's Chief Counsel, Travis Millsaps. He joins MSPB after spending six-and-a-half years at OSC. There, he oversaw the policy and legislative affairs portfolio and reviewed attorney work products related to PPPs, the Hatch Act, and whistleblower disclosures. He also interfaced with the inspector general community and various government agencies, including the Office of Management and Budget, to coordinate OSC's views on whistleblower issues and respond to requests for information. Before his tenure at OSC, Mr. Millsaps worked at the Cause of Action Institute, a nonprofit government watchdog organization. There, he partnered with whistleblowers and stakeholders to conduct strategic oversight of the executive branch through investigations, Freedom of Information Act requests, litigation, and other administrative law accountability measures.

During law school, Mr. Millsaps clerked for the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, where he investigated Federal agencies to identify and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in government. He earned a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee and a J.D. from the George Washington University Law School.

The U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) is an independent, quasi-judicial agency whose mission is to protect the Merit System Principles and promote an effective Federal workforce free of Prohibited Personnel Practices.