



U.S. Office of Special Counsel
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OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL FILES COMPLAINT FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST A NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION EMPLOYEE FOR HATCH ACT VIOLATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, DC/ December 14, 2009— Today, the United States Office of Special Counsel (OSC) filed a complaint with the Merit Systems Protection Board requesting that a federal employee in the Washington, D.C., area be removed from his employment for engaging in political activity prohibited by the Hatch Act. An investigation conducted by OSC found evidence that the National Science Foundation (NSF) employee engaged in activity supporting President Barack Obama's 2008 Presidential campaign while he was on duty and in the federal workplace.

OSC's investigation found evidence that throughout 2008, the NSF employee volunteered for then-Presidential candidate Barack Obama's campaign by participating in science and technology policy groups that advised the campaign on science and technology policy. In his role with these groups, the employee drafted and edited documents, website materials and speech outlines for the Presidential campaign. OSC's investigation found evidence that the NSF employee engaged in much of this activity while he was at work, being paid by NSF and using his government computer.

OSC has filed a complaint with the Merit Systems Protection Board, seeking the NSF employee's removal from employment for knowingly violating the Hatch Act. OSC charged in its complaint that the employee violated the Hatch Act by engaging in political activity while on duty and in a federal room or building.

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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. For more information please visit our web site at www.osc.gov or call 1-800-872-9855.