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Statement in Response to Ruling on *Kaplan v. Conyers*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, D.C./Aug. 21, 2013 –

On August 20, 2013, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit issued a ruling in *Kaplan v. Conyers*, a case involving protections for federal employees in “noncritical sensitive” positions. Special Counsel Carolyn Lerner issued this statement in response to the ruling:

Having filed an amicus brief in this case, we are disappointed in the outcome. This decision poses a significant threat to whistleblower protections for hundreds of thousands of federal employees in sensitive positions and may chill civil servants from blowing the whistle. OSC looks forward to working with Congress to strengthen existing whistleblower protections for all civil servants, including employees in sensitive positions.

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency. Our basic authorities come from four federal statutes: the Civil Service Reform Act, the Whistleblower Protection Act, the Hatch Act, and the Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). OSC's primary mission is to safeguard the merit system by protecting federal employees and applicants from prohibited personnel practices, especially reprisal for whistleblowing. The Disclosure Unit serves as a safe channel for allegations of wrongdoing. For more information, please visit our website at www.osc.gov.