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Report Released on Former Special Counsel Scott Bloch

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) today released a report regarding allegations that former Special Counsel Scott J. Bloch committed prohibited personnel practices against OSC employees. The Office of Personnel Management Inspector General (OPM IG) conducted the investigation and wrote the report on OSC's behalf to avoid a conflict of interest.

Mr. Bloch served as Special Counsel from December 2003 until November 2008. A group of former OSC employees, including Cary Sklar and Travis Elliot, filed a complaint against Mr. Bloch in 2005 asserting they were reassigned from Washington, DC headquarters to a new field office for improper reasons. The OPM IG investigators received evidence that the reassignments were motivated by anti-gay animus, including statements attributed to Mr. Bloch by his management consultant, a former Army Inspector General. The report concludes, among other things, that the reassignments to Detroit were "apparently designed to target the removal" of these employees, "without regard to the operational needs of the agency." OSC and the employees reached a settlement in this matter earlier this year.

The Government Accountability Project, Human Rights Campaign, Project on Government Oversight and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility joined the former OSC employees in filing the complaint. The law firm Katz, Marshall & Banks represented the employees and the public interest organizations. OSC commends the work of the parties and their counsel, and appreciates their commitment to good government and to the rights of federal workers. In addition, OSC thanks the OPM IG for the work conducted on OSC's behalf.

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, and to serve as a safe channel for allegations of wrongdoing. For more information, please visit our website at www.osc.gov.