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OSC Combats LGBT Discrimination in the Federal Workplace

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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In recent months, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) has reinvigorated its efforts to prevent, investigate, and stop sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination in the federal workplace, which are prohibited personnel practices under OSC's jurisdiction. While the federal government has made great strides towards stopping discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) federal employees, recent [research](#) by the Merit Systems Protection Board indicates that more can be done.

"As LGBT Pride Month draws to a close, I'm proud to highlight some of OSC's recent work to improve its protection of LGBT federal employees and reemphasize our commitment to this important issue," said Special Counsel Carolyn Lerner.

Some of OSC's recent actions in this area include:

- Increasing collaboration with other federal agencies, such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), including greater coordination on training, outreach, and cases involving LGBT issues.
- Providing comments on OPM's proposed revisions to its non-discrimination regulations, which among other things reflect specific protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Obtaining favorable resolutions in two cases involving federal workers who alleged discrimination based on their sexual orientation.
- Updating OSC's [webpage](#) on federal protections from sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination.
- Participating in quarterly Justice Department-organized conference calls with LGBT community-based organizations.
- [Louis Lopez](#), OSC's associate special counsel for investigation and prosecution (headquarters), serving on a panel organized by OPM's Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the OPM Pride Alliance on "Building LGBT Equality in the Federal Workforce."

OSC is planning a meeting with federal partners on OSC's outreach and enforcement efforts in this area in mid-September. Please contact Mr. Lopez at llopez@osc.gov or 202-254-3632 for more information.

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.