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OSC Welcomes New Principal Deputy Special Counsel Tristan Leavitt to serve as Acting Special Counsel

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is pleased to announce that Tristan Leavitt joined the agency in June as Principal Deputy Special Counsel, and is currently serving as Acting Special Counsel.

Mr. Leavitt comes to OSC with a deep policy and investigative background. He spent eight years on Capitol Hill, before and after attending law school, including for the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee under then-Chairman Jason Chaffetz, and for the Senate Judiciary Committee under then-Ranking Member Chuck Grassley.

Notably, Mr. Leavitt worked with dozens of whistleblowers investigating such matters as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' Operation Fast and Furious, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program, and misconduct at the U.S. Secret Service and the Transportation Security Administration.

He also handled whistleblower policy for Senator Grassley and then-Chairman Chaffetz. He spearheaded a congressional *amicus* brief for the United States Supreme Court case *Department of Homeland Security v. MacLean*, and proposed the establishment of the Senate Whistleblower Protection Caucus. On the House Oversight Committee, he successfully shepherded the FBI Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act and the Follow the Rules Act into law.

"OSC does excellent work and I'm thrilled to have joined the office," said Mr. Leavitt. "I am honored to serve in the role of Acting Special Counsel, and I look forward to working closely with the new Special Counsel, when confirmed, to fulfill OSC's important mission."

Mr. Leavitt received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Brigham Young University and his Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University Law Center. The nominee for the Special Counsel position, Henry Kerner, awaits Senate confirmation.

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.