



COALITION OF FEDERAL OMBUDSMAN

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date and Time: January 13, 2021, 1:30-3:00 pm (ET)

Location: WebEx

Agenda:

1. Mentoring Committee update
2. Social Media Committee update
3. Charter & Governance Workgroup update
4. Next OSO Meeting
5. IOA Standards of Practice status
6. Announcements – Training opportunities, job openings, or really any office and ombudsman happenings you'd like to tell the world about
7. For Your Awareness – Summary of the situation at the University of Mississippi
8. Discussion Topics

Highlights:

1. Mentoring Committee Update

- a. Executive Committee selected Mentoring Committee: Virginia Behr, Brenda Doty, Fatimah Mateen, Bill Maurer, and Lisa Levine, who will serve in an ex officio capacity as Executive Committee representative
- b. Gratitude to the prior committee, especially Wendy Kamenshine and David Michael, co-creators of the program, as well as to Laurel Gorden, Bina Patel, and Felicia Bunns.
- c. Special thanks and credit to David Michael for his valued service moving the Mentoring Program from infancy to a valued service, having overseen four successful cohorts pairing 30 mentees and mentors

2. Social Media Committee Update

- a. Erica Katherine serves as Chair with five members, as well as Paul Sotoudeh as honorary member: Ken Skodacek, Deanna Yuille Banford, Syreeta Jarrett, Sarah Trujillo, and Bertha Anderson
- b. This is an exploratory committee to assess what platforms, if any, are appropriate for COFO to have a presence

3. Charter and Governance Workgroup Update

- a. First iteration of documents presented to Executive Committee for review

4. OSO Meeting

- a. Next meeting of Ombuds Supporting Ombuds (OSO) will be 1/27/2021, 2-3 pm ET

5. IOA Standards of Practice Status

- a. Extended feedback period closed 1/12/2021
- b. COFO requested meeting with IOA Board, but that did not happen

6. University of Mississippi Update

- a. Ongoing internal whistleblower investigation
- b. University requested ombuds records
- c. Ombuds sued university
- d. University put ombuds on leave

7. Announcements

- a. ARC has new annual report posted and delivered to Congress:
<https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/enterprise-assets/pdfs/FY20-Ombudsman-Annual-Report.pdf>

8. Dealing with a Transition as an Ombuds/Ombuds Office Discussion: A change in federal leadership is imminent – how do federal ombuds offices need to go about preparing? If you’ve experienced a transition in the past, what advice do you have for the federal ombuds community? Do you have any stories, experiences, or tips to share?

- a. Mollie Berg led discussion
- b. Be ready to educate what ombuds role is, what ombuds do, Standards ombuds hold, and value of ombuds
- c. Fundamental ombuds role remains the same
- d. Can collect documents such as ACUS report, COFO Endorsement, IOA Standards of Practice, and ADRA to have at the ready

Attendance 1/13/2021

Last	First	Agency	Call-In
Adams	Joanne	USDA	1
Anderson	Jeff	DOE	1
Arbid	Michelle	FEMA	1
Balick	Howard	FDA	1
Barrar	Riley	CFPB	1
Bayley	Bernardo	Defense Language Institute	1

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Last	First	Agency	Call-In
Bedlivy	Dawn	NSA	1
Berg	Mollie	DOD / National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)	1
Brothers	Linda	NIH	1
Brown	Andrea	United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)	1
Byron	Jason	NIH	1
Cameron	Bob	CFPB	1
Coleman	Jean	SBA	1
Danabar	Sheila	TSA	1
Davenport Dayes	Nathelia (Nicky)	FEMA	1
Ekwuabu	Ogochukwu	Department of Veterans Affairs	1
Epps	Ayanna	FDIC	1
Fox	Angela	FDA	1
Garmon	Felisa	CFPB	1
Gnatt	Sheldon	NSA	1
Gordon	Laurel	DOJ / U. S. Marshals Service (USMS)	1
Green	Veronica	State OIG	1
Harris	Robert D.	FDIC	1
Heffernan	Claire	TSA	1
Hobson	Shirley	VA Tennessee Valley Health Care System	1
Hopkins	Emilee	NGA	1
Kamenshine	Wendy	CFPB	1
Katherine	Erica	FDA	1
Kinnavy	Noreen	Broadcasting Board of Governors	1
Levine	Lisa	DOJ / Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR)	1
Lewis	Mark D.	FDA	1
Malone	Marcus	DOJ / USMS	1
Manderson	Katie	VA	1
Mateen	Fatimah	DHS / USCIS	1
Mattice	Steve		1
Maurer	Bill	Census	1
McNeil	Tracey	SEC	1

UNCLASSIFIED

Last	First	Agency	Call-In
Megee	Christine	DOD Education Activity	1
Michael	David	NIH	1
Miller	Carla	DOJ / ATF	1
Milner	Heather	CFPB	1
Moore	Sandi	NRO	1
Morey	Chauncenette	FBI	1
Piziali	Jamie	EPA	1
Raymond	Xaivian	NASA	1
Richards	Amber	SBA	1
Robinson	Belinda	FBI	1
Rojas	Nick	DOD / DIA	1
Rowe	Mary	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	1
Skodacek	Ken	FDA	1
Sotoudeh	Paul	USPTO	1
Taylor	Lelar	VA	1
Trujillo	Sarah	USDA	1
Varner	Tahirih	National Park Service	1
Vermillion	Chris	TSA	1
Villafane	Jacqueline	American Red Cross	1
Voloshin	Victor	NIH	1
Walker	Don	DOD / Army Medical Readiness Assistance Program	1
Walker	Olivia	DOD / US Army Medical Command	1
Weber	Guy	DOD / NGA	1
White	Karen	DOD / National Guard Bureau	1
Whittington	Fred (Whitt)	DOL OIG	1
Wolfe	Lexi	DOE	1
Yuille Banford	Deanna	DOD / Defense Human Resources Activity	1
		Total	64