

Federal Circuit Employment Law Symposium Agenda

October 7, 2026 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM: Registration

8:55 AM – 9:00 AM: Opening Remarks from the Federal Circuit

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM: Case Law Update – Part 1 – Two experts in Federal sector employment law will discuss the most important Federal Circuit and Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) decisions issued in the past year in the critical areas of whistleblowing, jurisdiction, constructive removal, retirement, veterans' rights, damages, penalties, and more. This presentation will also provide an overview of the types of actions over which the MSPB has jurisdiction, new rulemaking affecting jurisdiction, and pro bono opportunities for those attorneys who would like to get active litigation experience by practicing before the MSPB.

Panelists:

- Hon. Diane Smason, Regional Director/Chief Administrative Judge, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, Central Regional Office
- Hon. Jeremiah Cassidy, Regional Director/Chief Administrative Judge, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, Washington Regional Office

9:50 AM – 10:35 AM: Case Law Update – Part 2

Panelists:

- Hon. Diane Smason, Regional Director/Chief Administrative Judge, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, Central Regional Office
- Hon. Jeremiah Cassidy, Regional Director/Chief Administrative Judge, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, Washington Regional Office

10:35 AM – 10:55 AM: Networking Break

10:55 AM – 11:55 AM: A View from the Bench – Don't miss this moderated discussion among a panel of experienced MSPB administrative judges, who will discuss recent trends and best practices for effective representation and case management when practicing before the Board. The panel will cover topics including jurisdictional issues, discovery and motion practice, and tips for conducting a successful hearing. The panel will also provide insights into dispute resolution alternatives and effective strategies when participating in settlement conferences or formal mediations before the MSPB.

Moderator:

- James Eisenmann, Partner, Alden Law Group, PLLC

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Panelists:

- Hon. Jennifer Cassell, Administrative Judge,
U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, Central Regional Office
- Hon. David Lidow, Administrative Judge,
U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, Central Regional Office
- Hon. Elisabeth (Elisa) Nolte, Administrative Judge,
U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, Central Regional Office

11:55 AM – 12:00 PM: Closing