



# FLRA NEWS

FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY - WASHINGTON, DC 20424

Contact: Sarah Whittle Spooner  
202-218-7791

[www.flra.gov](http://www.flra.gov)

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## FLRA ISSUES GUIDE TO ARBITRATION

The Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) announced today the issuance of the [Guide to Arbitration Under the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute \(the Guide\)](#). The publication of the Guide is a significant component of the FLRA's arbitration initiative, and follows the October 1, 2010 revisions to the FLRA's [regulations](#) concerning the review of arbitration awards, the development and posting of [optional forms](#) for parties to use in arbitration cases, and the creation of a [nationwide, comprehensive arbitration-training program](#). "The FLRA's arbitration initiative involves the first update to the FLRA's arbitration regulations in nearly 25 years, and the first FLRA offering of comprehensive arbitration training and tools since the mid-1990s," said FLRA Chairman Carol Waller Pope, "and is yet another step in our efforts to better serve our customers and provide them with meaningful and clear guidance for the processing of cases before the Authority."

The Guide, which is available on the [FLRA's website](#), discusses such matters as: the scope of the negotiated grievance procedure; the procedural and substantive requirements of filing arbitration exceptions and oppositions with the Authority; the standards of review that the Authority applies in arbitration cases; the requirements for complying with arbitration awards; and judicial review of Authority decisions in arbitration cases. The content of the Guide was determined in part based on suggestions made by members of the labor-management community. In this connection, over the last 10 months, the FLRA solicited the input of arbitrators and practitioners by conducting nationwide focus groups, distributing surveys to parties to recent FLRA decisions, and inviting members of the Federal labor-management community to provide ideas and views on the grievance-arbitration process as well as the FLRA's procedures, regulations and decisions by sending email to the FLRA's "Engage the FLRA" address.

The FLRA administers the labor-management relations program for 1.6 million non-Postal Federal employees worldwide, approximately 1.1 million of whom are represented in 2,200 bargaining units. It is charged with providing leadership in establishing policies and guidance related to Federal sector labor-management relations and with resolving disputes under, and ensuring compliance with, the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute.

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