



FLRA NEWS

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FLRA GENERAL COUNSEL ANNOUNCES WEB-BASED INTERACTIVE TRAINING ON RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE FEDERAL SERVICE LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS STATUTE

The Office of General Counsel (OGC) of the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) is pleased to announce that its web-based interactive basic statutory training on rights and obligations under the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute (Statute) is now available on-line. The training, which the FLRA unveiled at a Town Hall Webinar broadcast from the United States Office of Personnel Management (OPM) on April 26, 2012, is a comprehensive course of nine lessons on the structure and functioning of the FLRA and the legal requirements of the Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) provisions of the Statute. It is intended to educate Federal employees, managers, and unions on how the Statute defines ULPs and how they can guide their relationships to comply with the Statute's requirement that collective bargaining promote an efficient and effective Federal service. According to General Counsel Julia Akins Clark, the training is another example of the OGC's effort to provide the Federal labor-management community with comprehensive resource and training materials to assist them in promoting cooperative labor-management relations that comply with the mandates of the Statute.

Developing and distributing the training was a collaborative interagency effort among the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) -- which provided technical and production support -- the OPM -- which facilitated web hosting -- and the FLRA -- which provided the training content -- demonstrating the three agencies' commitment to enhancing effective and cooperative labor-management relations in the Federal government. By the end of the year, the interagency effort will produce additional web-based programs designed by FLRA components including Authority Arbitration Training and Federal Service Impasses Panel Training. In addition, the OGC and the Department of Defense will collaborate to produce a web-based training program on Representation Cases.

Federal employees can access the Basic Statutory training on HR University -- a government-wide electronic training resource maintained by OPM -- at www.hru.gov by clicking on "Course Catalogue" to find the link to the "FLRA Basic Statutory Training." You then can set up an account using your Federal employee email address. Agencies may also add the training directly to their Learning Management Systems. Non-Federal employees can access the training using a public link on the VA's HR Academy at www.vahracademy.com/flra.html.

The FLRA administers the labor-management relations program for 2.1 million non-Postal Federal employees worldwide, approximately 1.2 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 Statute.

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