FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 2010

THE FLRA ANNOUNCES MARCH ARBITRATION FOCUS GROUPS IN ITS CHICAGO AND SAN FRANCISCO REGIONS

The Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) announced today that it will be conducting focus groups in its Chicago, Illinois and San Francisco, California Regions to seek the input of Federal agency and union practitioners outside of Washington, D.C. who participate in the grievance arbitration process, as well as arbitrators who conduct hearings and issue awards resolving grievances in the Federal sector. The focus groups are just one of a number of ways that the FLRA is seeking the input of stakeholders as part of its initiative to both review and revise the FLRA’s arbitration regulations and create an arbitration education program -- including training sessions and tools -- to make arbitration case processing more effective and efficient.

In addition, during the month of March, the FLRA continues to invite members of the Federal labor-management community to provide ideas and views on the grievance arbitration process, the FLRA’s procedures, regulations and decisions, and suggestions for training by sending an email to the FLRA’s “Engage the FLRA” email address at engagetheflra@flra.gov.

The focus groups will be held on the following dates at the locations set forth below:

**Chicago, IL Focus Group**
Monday, March 22, 2010
10:00am – 12:00pm
55 West Monroe Street
5th Floor Conference Room
Chicago, Illinois 60603

**San Francisco, CA Focus Group**
Tuesday, March 23, 2010
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building
Edward Roybal Audit. & Conf. Ctr.
5th Floor North Tower, Conf. Rm. 1H
301 Clay Street
Oakland, CA 94626

Anyone interested in participating in a focus group must register by contacting the FLRA’s Case Intake and Publication Office at (202) 218-7740.

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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