

Small Business Activities Inquiries concerning programs to assist small businesses should be directed to one of the Small Business Centers listed in the preceding text.

Speakers Inquiries and requests for speakers should be directed to the Office

of Citizen Services and Communications (X), General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20405 (phone, 202-501-0705); or contact the nearest regional office.

For further information concerning the General Services Administration, contact the Office of Citizen Services and Communications (X), General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20405. Phone, 202-501-0705.

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

901 North Stuart Street, Tenth Floor, Arlington, VA 22203
Phone, 703-306-4301. Internet, www.iaf.gov.

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The Inter-American Foundation is an independent Federal agency that supports social and economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean. It makes grants primarily to private, local, and community organizations that carry out self-help projects.

The Inter-American Foundation (IAF) was created in 1969 (22 U.S.C. 290f) as an experimental U.S. foreign assistance program. IAF is governed by a nine-person Board of Directors appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Six members are drawn from the private sector and three from the Federal Government. The Board of Directors appoints the President of IAF.

IAF works in Latin America and the Caribbean to promote equitable, participatory, and sustainable self-help development by awarding grants directly to local organizations throughout the region. It also enters into partnerships with public and private sector entities to build support and mobilize local, national, and international resources for grassroots development.

For further information, contact the Office of the President, Inter-American Foundation, 901 North Stuart Street, Tenth Floor, Arlington, VA 22203. Phone, 703-306-4301. Internet, www.iaf.gov.

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

1615 M Street NW., Fifth Floor, Washington, DC 20419
Phone, 202-653-7200 or 800-209-8960 (toll free). TDD, 800-877-8339 (toll free). Fax, 202-653-7130. Internet, www.mspb.gov.

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[For the Merit Systems Protection Board statement of organization, see the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 5, Part 1200]

The Merit Systems Protection Board protects the integrity of the Federal personnel merit systems and the rights of Federal employees. In overseeing the personnel practices of the Federal Government, the Board conducts special studies of the merit systems, hears and decides charges of wrongdoing and employee appeals of adverse agency actions, and orders corrective and disciplinary actions when appropriate.

The Merit Systems Protection Board is a successor agency to the United States Civil Service Commission, established by act of January 16, 1883 (22 Stat. 403). Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1978 (5 U.S.C. app.) redesignated part of the Commission as the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Activities

The Board has responsibility for hearing and adjudicating appeals by Federal employees of adverse personnel actions, such as removals, suspensions, and demotions. It also resolves cases involving reemployment rights, the denial of periodic step increases in pay, actions against administrative law judges, and charges of prohibited personnel practices, including charges in

connection with whistleblowing. The Board has the authority to enforce its decisions and to order corrective and disciplinary actions. An employee or applicant for employment involved in an appealable action that also involves an allegation of discrimination may ask the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to review a Board decision. Final decisions and orders of the Board can be appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

The Board reviews regulations issued by the Office of Personnel Management and has the authority to require agencies to cease compliance with any regulation that could constitute a prohibited personnel practice. It also conducts special studies of the civil service and other executive branch merit systems and reports to the President and the