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U.S.C. app.), the Secretary of Agriculture makes the following delegations of authority to the Judicial Officer. The Judicial Officer is authorized to:

(1) Act as final deciding officer in adjudicatory proceedings subject to 5 U.S.C. 556 and 557;

(2) Act as final deciding officer in adjudicatory proceedings which are or may be subject to the ''Rules of Practice Governing Formal Adjudicatory Proceedings Instituted by the Secretary Under Various Statutes'' set forth in part 1, subpart H, of this title;

(3) Act as final deciding officer in adjudicatory proceedings which are or may be subject to the ''Rules of Practice Governing Cease and Desist Proceedings Under Section 2 of the Capper-Volstead Act'' set forth in part 1, subpart I, of this title;

(4) Act as final deciding officer in adjudicatory proceedings subject to the ''Procedures Related to Administrative Hearings Under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986'' set forth in part 1, subpart L, of this title;

(5) Act as final deciding officer in adjudicatory proceedings subject to the ''Rules of Practice Governing Adjudication of Sourcing Area Applications and Formal Review of Sourcing Areas Pursuant to the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*)'' set forth in part 1, subpart M, of this title;

(6) Act as final deciding officer in rate proceedings under the Packers and Stockyards Act, as amended and supplemented (7 U.S.C. 181–229);

(7) Act as final deciding officer in reparation proceedings under statutes administered by the United States Department of Agriculture;

(8) Act as final deciding officer in appeals under section 63 of the Plant Variety Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 2443), and in reexamination proceedings under section 91 of the Plant Variety Protection Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2501);

(9) Act as final deciding officer in adjudicatory proceedings under section 359i of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1359ii); and

(10) Issue rules of practice applicable to proceedings conducted under section 359i of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1359ii).

(b) The delegation of authority from the Secretary of Agriculture to the Judicial Officer in paragraph (a) of this section shall not be construed to limit the authority of the Judicial Officer to perform any functions, in addition to those identified in the Act of April 4, 1940, as amended (7 U.S.C. 450c–450g), which may be assigned by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Judicial Officer.

(c) As used in this section, the term *Judicial Officer* shall mean any person or persons so designated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

[68 FR 27443, May 20, 2003]

§ 2.36 Director, Office of Communications.

(a) *Delegations.* The following delegations of authority are made by the Secretary of Agriculture to Director, Office of Communications:

(1) *Related to public affairs.* (i) Advise and counsel general officers on public affairs matters to the Department.

(ii) Organize and direct the activities of a public affairs office to include press relations of the secretary of agriculture and other executive functions and services for general officers of the Department.

(2) *Related to information activities.* (i) Advise the secretary and general officers in the planning, development, and execution of Department policies and programs.

(ii) Direct and coordinate the overall formulation and development of policies, programs, plans, procedures, standards and organization structures and staffing patterns for the information activities of the Department and its agencies, both in Washington and in the field.

(iii) Exercise final review and approval of all public information material prepared by the Department and its agencies and select the most effective method and audience for distributing this information.

(iv) Serve as the central public information authority in the USDA, with the authority to determine policy for all USDA communication activities and agency information activities in

order to provide leadership and centralized operational direction for USDA and agency information activities so that all material shall effectively support USDA policies and programs, including the defense program.

(v) Serve as the central printing authority in the USDA, with authority to represent the USDA with Joint Committee on Printing of the Congress, the Government Printing Office, and other Federal and State agencies on information matters.

(vi) Cooperate with and secure the cooperation of commercial, industrial and other nongovernmental agencies and concerns regarding information work as required in the execution of the Department's programs.

(vii) Plan and direct communication research and training for the Department and its agencies.

(viii) Oversee general officers and agency heads in the development and implementation of information policies issued pursuant to the provisions of the ''Freedom of Information Act'' (5 U.S.C. 552) and the ''Privacy Act'' (5 U.S.C. 552a), and provide consultation regarding those policies.

(ix) Supervise and provide leadership and final clearance for the planning, production, and distribution of visual information material for the department and its agencies in Washington, D.C., and the field, and provide such information services as may be deemed necessary.

(x) Maintain overall responsibility and control over the preparation of the ''Agricultural Decisions.''

(xi) Administer, direct and coordinate publications and user fee authority granted under section 1121 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, as amended by section 1769 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2242a; and publish any appropriate regulations necessary to the exercise of this authority.

(b) [Reserved]

§2.37 Chief Information Officer.

(a) *Delegation.* The Chief Information Officer, under the supervision of the Secretary, is responsible for executing the duties enumerated in Public Law 104–106 for agency Chief Information Officers, as follows:

(1) Reporting directly to the Secretary of Agriculture regarding information technology matters.

(2) Overseeing all information technology and information resource management activities relating to the programs and operations of the Department and component agencies. This oversight includes approving information technology investments, monitoring and evaluating the performance of those investments and information resource management activities, approval of all architectures and components thereto and determining whether to continue, modify, or terminate an information technology program or project.

(3) Providing advice and other assistance to the Secretary and other senior management personnel to ensure that information technology is acquired and managed for the Department consistent with chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (Coordination of Federal Information Policy).

(4) Developing, implementing, and maintaining a sound and integrated Departmentwide information technology architecture.

(5) Promoting the effective and efficient design and operation of all major information resources management processes for the Department, including improvements to work processes of the Department.

(6) Approving the acquisition or procurement of information technology resources by, or on behalf of, any Department agency or office.

(7) Providing guidance and assistance to Department procurement personnel with respect to information technology acquisition strategy and policy.

(8) The Chief Information Officer is designated the Major Information Technology Systems Executive in USDA to integrate and unify the management process for the Department's major information technology system acquisitions and to monitor implementation of the policies and practices set forth in Circular A–109, Major Systems Acquisitions, for information technology. This includes the authority to: