

FLRA NEWS

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FLRA ANNOUNCES WEB-BASED INTERACTIVE ARBITRATION TRAINING

The Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) is pleased to announce that its web-based Comprehensive Arbitration Training is now available on-line. The training is yet another example of the FLRA's ongoing efforts to better serve the labor-management community, providing members with current, useful tools to support them in addressing workplace matters. Specifically, the training is intended to educate arbitrators and Federal employees, managers, and union representatives on the roles of the arbitrator, the parties, and the Authority in the arbitration process.

The training, which was developed as part of the FLRA's broader "arbitration initiative" launched in 2010, consists of five lessons: an introduction to arbitration in the Federal sector; the negotiated grievance procedure and filing exceptions to arbitration awards; grounds for exceptions to, and Authority review of, awards; management rights; and arbitration remedies. The initiative also included 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 issuance of a Guide to Arbitration Under the Federal Service Labor-Management **Relations Statute.**

In addition to the newly released arbitration training, links to which can be found on the FLRA's Training & ADR page, the FLRA offers web-based interactive trainings on: Executive Order 13522, Creating Labor-Management Forums to Improve Delivery of Government Services; bargaining over 5 U.S.C. § 7106(b)(1) matters; basic statutory rights and obligations under the Statute; and Federal Service Impasses Panel process and procedures. Agencies can add all of the trainings directly to their Learning Management Systems.

Developing and distributing these web-based trainings is part of a larger collaborative interagency effort among the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) -- which provided technical and production support as well as facilitated web hosting on the VA's HR Academy -- the Office of Personnel Management -- which facilitated web hosting on HR University -- and the FLRA -- which provided the training content. This effort demonstrates the three agencies' commitment to enhancing effective and cooperative labor-management relations in the Federal government.

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 Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute.