Stephen Ebbert Alpern

Arbitrator

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Born: West Palm Beach, Florida
May 26, 1947

Education

Georgetown University
Washington, D.C.
-AB. degree (government)- 1968

Columbia University School of Law
New York, New York
-JD degree-1971
-Academic honor- Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar- 1971

Columbia University School of Business
New York, New York
-Executive Program in Business Administration- 1982

Professional Employment

Arbitrator
2000-present

Arbitration Intern with James M. Harkless, Esq.
2000-2005

Director, Office of Appeals Counsel
U. S. Merit Systems Protection Board
1120 Vermont Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20419
October 1993 to March 2000

The Office of Appeals Counsel is responsible for reviewing all cases in which parties seek review by the full Board of initial decisions by Board Administrative Judges. The Office makes recommendations to the three members of the Board regarding the petitions for review and drafts opinions to be issued by the Board or its members. The cases appealed to the Board involve a broad range of employment disputes, including disciplinary cases, whistleblower claims, retirement and disability matters, and

employment discrimination claims. The Office reviews approximately 1,500 petitions for review each year, and prepares approximately 500 written opinions each year. The Office also has an active program, which I established, to mediate settlements in cases. Decisions issued by the Board are generally only subject to review by the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

I directed all of the activities of the Office of Appeals Counsel, which employs thirty-five attorneys. I was a non-career executive who was appointed by, and served at the pleasure of, the Chairman of the Board. During my tenure at the Board, I streamlined the processes of the Office of Appeals Counsel, consistent with the goals of government reinvention. I negotiated the agreement with the Board's Professional Association, which established a Labor-Management Partnership.

Associate General Counsel
Office of Labor Law
United States Postal Service
Washington, D.C.
July 1978- October 1991

As chief labor counsel for the Postal Service, I directed the legal advice and representation for management in all employment-related matters. The Postal Service, with approximately 750,000 employees, is the largest employer covered by the National Labor Relations Act and the largest civilian employer in the government. I have served as principal attorney (and alternate chief spokesman) in national collective bargaining negotiations, involving more than 600,000 employees. I also directed the presentation of the Postal Service's case in numerous interest arbitration proceedings and significant rights arbitrations. I was responsible for directing all significant employment-related litigation involving the Postal Service, including all appellate court litigation. I personally have argued cases in most United States Courts of Appeals. I was also responsible for giving professional direction to Postal Service labor attorneys in field offices who handled the bulk of routine litigation.

I began my career with the Postal Service as a labor attorney in 1971

Other Professional Activities

Administrative Conference of the United States
government member-1988 to 1993.

The Administrative Conference was an independent federal agency responsible for studying federal administrative processes and making recommendations for improvements to federal agencies and Congress. As the Postal Service's designee, I was one of the Conference's approximately 100 voting members, about half of whom were government members. I served on the Conference's Committee on Administration.

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia- 1971

US Supreme Court, most U. S. Courts of Appeals

Arbitration Rosters

American Arbitration Association Labor Panel

Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service

National Mediation Board

Arbitration Panels

U.S. Department of Labor (Headquarters) and Local 12, AFGE

D.C. Water and Sewer Authority and NAGE R3-06

Other Adjudicatory Activities

Presiding Judge, Ecclesiastical Court, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, 2004-present