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§ 458.74 Conduct of hearing.

Hearings shall be conducted by an Administrative Law Judge and shall be open to the public unless otherwise ordered by the Administrative Law Judge.

§ 458.75 Intervention.

Any person desiring to intervene in a hearing shall file a motion in writing in accordance with the procedures set forth in §458.72 or, if made at the hearing, may move orally on the record, stating the grounds upon which such person claims an interest. Such a motion shall be filed with the Administrative Law Judge who shall rule upon such motion.

§ 458.76 Duties and powers of the Administrative Law Judge.

It shall be the duty of the Administrative Law Judge to inquire fully into the facts as they relate to the matter before him and to prepare, serve and submit his recommended decision and order pursuant to §458.88. Upon assignment to him and before transfer of the case to the Assistant Secretary, the Administrative Law Judge shall have the authority to:

- (a) Grant requests for appearance of witnesses or production of documents;
- (b) Rule upon offers of proof and receive relevant evidence;
- (c) Take or cause depositions to be taken whenever the ends of justice would be served thereby;
- (d) Limit lines of questioning or testimony which are immaterial, irrelevant, or unduly repetitious;
- (e) Regulate the course of the hearing and if appropriate, exclude from the hearing persons who engage in misconduct and strike all related testimony of witnesses refusing to answer any questions ruled to be proper;
- (f) Hold conferences for the settlement or simplification of the issues by consent of the parties or upon his own motion;
- (g) Dispose of procedural requests, motions, or similar matters which shall be made part of the record of the proceeding, including motions to amend pleadings; also to recommend dismissal of cases or portions thereof, and to order hearings reopened prior to

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issuance of his recommended decision and order;

(h) Examine and cross-examine witnesses and introduce into the record documentary or other evidence;

(i) Request the parties at any time during the hearing to state their respective positions concerning any issue in the case or theory in support thereof;

(j) Continue, at his discretion, the hearing from day-to-day, or adjourn it to a later date or to a different place, by announcement thereof at the hearing or by other appropriate notice;

(k) Take official notice of any material fact not appearing in evidence in the record, which is among the traditional matters of judicial notice and also concerning which the Department of Labor by reason of its functions is presumed to be expert: *Provided*, That the parties shall be given adequate notice, at the hearing or by reference in the Administrative Law Judge's recommended decision and order, of the matters so noticed, and shall be given adequate opportunity to show the contrary;

(l) Correct or approve proposed corrections of the official transcript when deemed necessary; and

(m) Take any other action necessary under the foregoing and not prohibited by these regulations.

[45 FR 15158, Mar. 7, 1980. Redesignated and amended at 50 FR 31311, 31313, Aug. 1, 1985]

§ 458.77 Rights of parties.

Any party shall have the right to appear at such hearing in person, by counsel, or by other representative, to examine and cross-examine witnesses, and to introduce into the record documentary or other relevant evidence, except that the participation of any party shall be limited to the extent prescribed by the Administrative Law Judge. Two (2) copies of documentary evidence shall be submitted and a copy furnished to each of the other parties. Stipulations of fact may be introduced in evidence with respect to any issue.

§ 458.78 Rules of evidence.

The technical rules of evidence do not apply. Any evidence may be received, except that an Administrative Law Judge may exclude any evidence

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or offer of proof which is immaterial, irrelevant, unduly repetitious, or customarily privileged. Every party shall have a right to present his case by oral and documentary evidence and to submit rebuttal evidence.

§ 458.79 Burden of proof.

In a hearing concerning an alleged violation of §458.2 (Bill of rights of members of labor organizations) or §458.37 (Prohibition of certain discipline), the complainant shall have the burden of proving the allegations of the complaint by a preponderance of the evidence. In a hearing concerning an alleged violation of §§458.26–458.30, the Chief, DOE shall have the burden of proving the allegations of the complaint by a preponderance of the evidence. In a hearing concerning an alleged violation of other standards of conduct matters, the District Director shall have the burden of proving the allegations of the complaint by a preponderance of the evidence.

[45 FR 15158, Mar. 7, 1980. Redesignated and amended at 50 FR 31311, 31313, Aug. 1, 1985; 59 FR 15117, Mar. 31, 1994; 62 FR 6094, Feb. 10, 1997]

§ 458.80 Unavailability of Administrative Law Judges.

In the event the Administrative Law Judge designated to conduct the hearing becomes unavailable, the Chief Administrative Law Judge shall designate another Administrative Law Judge for the purpose of further hearing or issuance of a recommended decision and order on the record as made, or both.

§ 458.81 Objection to conduct of hearing.

(a) Any objection with respect to the conduct of the hearing, including any objection to the introduction of evidence, may be stated orally or in writing accompanied by a short statement of the grounds for such objection and included in the record. No such objection shall be deemed waived by further participation in the hearing. Such objection shall not stay the conduct of the hearing.

(b) Automatic exceptions will be allowed to all adverse rulings. Rulings by the Administrative Law Judge shall

not be appealed prior to the transfer of the case to the Assistant Secretary, but shall be considered by the Assistant Secretary only upon the filing of exceptions to the Administrative Law Judge's recommended decision and order in accordance with § 458.88.

§ 458.82 Motions after a hearing.

All motions made after the transfer of the case to the Assistant Secretary, except motions to correct the record under §458.76(l), shall be made in writing to the Assistant Secretary. The moving party shall serve a copy of all motion papers on all other parties. A statement of service shall accompany the motion. Answers, if any, must be served on all parties and the original thereof, together with a statement of service, shall be filed with the Assistant Secretary after the hearing, within seven (7) days after service of the moving papers unless it is otherwise directed.

§ 458.83 Waiver of objections.

Any objection not duly urged before an Administrative Law Judge shall be deemed waived.

§ 458.84 Oral argument at the hearing.

Any party shall be entitled, upon request, to a reasonable period prior to the close of the hearing for oral argument, which shall be included in the official transcript of the hearing.

§ 458.85 Transcript.

An official reporter shall make the only official transcript of such proceedings. Copies of the official transcript will be provided to the parties, in accordance with the provisions of part 70 of this title, or they may be examined in the district office in whose geographic jurisdiction the hearing has been held.

[45 FR 15158, Mar. 7, 1980. Redesignated at 50 FR 31311, Aug. 1, 1985, as amended at 63 FR 33780, June 19, 1998]

§ 458.86 Filing of brief.

Any party desiring to submit a brief to the Administrative Law Judge shall file the original within ten (10) days after the close of the hearing: *Provided, however,* That prior to the close of the