

§ 3002.14

of the rules of practice, the General Counsel does not appear as an attorney in hearings in any proceeding before the Commission and takes no part in the preparation of evidence or argument presented in such hearings. The General Counsel represents the Commission in court proceedings and performs legal research on issues coming before the Commission; advises the Commission on the legal aspects of proposed legislation and rulemaking, the legal aspects of proposed action and policies on procurement, contracting, personnel matters, and other internal legal questions.

[48 FR 13168, Mar. 30, 1983. Redesignated at 72 FR 33165, June 15, 2007]

§ 3002.14 Office of the Consumer Advocate.

(a) The Office of the Consumer Advocate provides representation for the interests of the general public in Commission proceedings. The office prepares and litigates before the Commission legal and evidentiary presentations in all formal Commission dockets under chapter 36 of title 39, U.S. Code. It also is responsible for maintaining a continuing litigation capability including preparation for consideration of issues likely to reflect the interests of the general public in subsequent proceedings.

(b) The head of this office is responsible for directing both legal and technical personnel to fulfill its functions. The office includes both litigation attorneys and a broad spectrum of technical expertise to analyze and evaluate the diverse economic, cost and market issues before the Commission. During the pendency of a proceeding, personnel serving in the Office of the Consumer Advocate are prohibited from participating or advising as to any intermediate or Commission decision in that proceeding pursuant to the Commission Rules of Practice.

(c) A mission statement regarding the Office of the Consumer Advocate is contained as appendix A to this part.

[48 FR 13168, Mar. 30, 1983, as amended at 64 FR 37402, July 12, 1999. Redesignated at 72 FR 33165, June 15, 2007]

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§§ 3002.15 Office of Public Affairs and Governmental Relations. [Reserved]

§§ 3002.16 Office of Inspector General. [Reserved]

APPENDIX A TO PART 3002—POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION, MISSION STATEMENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE

The mission of the Office of the Consumer Advocate is to be a vigorous, responsive, and effective advocate for reasonable and equitable treatment of the general public in proceedings before the Postal Regulatory Commission.

In furtherance of this mission, the Office of the Consumer Advocate will:

1. Give a strong and consistent voice to the views of consumers, especially those that are not otherwise represented in Commission proceedings;
2. Argue for equity on behalf of individuals and small businesses, both as senders and as recipients of mail and mail services;
3. Utilize all means and procedures available under the Commission's rules and applicable law to present evidence and arguments on behalf of consumers in Commission proceedings;
4. Assist in the development of a complete record on issues pending before the Commission;
5. Engage in dialogue with parties or participants in proceedings before the Commission to advance the interests of consumers;
6. Encourage the equitable settlement of issues among the parties and participants in proceedings whenever possible;
7. Promote fair competition between the United States Postal Service and its competitors for the ultimate benefit of consumers;
8. Seek out responsible advocates of consumer interests and encourage their participation in Commission cases;
9. Maintain the highest standards of competence and quality in all evidence and pleadings submitted to the Commission; and
10. Maintain separation and independence from the Commission and its advisory staff in the course of proceedings before the Commission.

[64 FR 37402, July 12, 1999, as amended at 72 FR 33165, June 15, 2007]

PART 3003—PRIVACY ACT RULES

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