UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

SPECIAL COUNSEL,

Petitioner.

v.

Docket No. HQ12068310014

HENRY P. VERROT,

Respondent.

FINAL DECISION

The Board has before it an Order on Settlement issued by Administrative Law Judge Frank W. Vanderheyden in this disciplinary action initiated under 5 U.S.C. §§ 1206(a)(g) and 1207. Respondent was charged with commission of prohibited personnel practices. Judge Vanderheyden granted the parties' Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement.

The Joint Motion, which included the terms of the settlement, was signed by respondent as well as his counsel and the Special Counsel. In the Joint Motion respondent admitted he violated 5 U.S.C. § 2302(b)(5) and (6) by influencing an individual to withdraw from competition for the purpose of improving the prospects of another for appointment to an announced position. The Joint Motion also included the Special Counsel's recommendation of a penalty of 60 days suspension and a \$1,000 civil penalty and a provision that if the penalty recommended by the Special

Counsel were considered inappropriate for whatever reason, by the Judge or the Board, the parties be granted a hearing on the appropriateness of the recommended discipline.

Judge Vanderheyden recommends that the Board enter a final order consistent with the parties' agreement embraced within the Joint Motion.

Accordingly, as recommended by Judge Vanderheyden, and consistent with the Board's penalty authority under 5 U.S.C. § 1207(b), the Board ORDERS that respondent BE SUSPENDED without pay for a period of 60 days and that respondent FORFEIT the sum of \$1,000 to be paid by check or similar instrument to the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board within 30 days of his receipt of this opinion. The Board FURTHER ORDERS that within 90 days of issuance of this Final Decision, Special Counsel report to the Board on the matter of compliance with the suspension order.

FOR THE BOARD:

(Dace) /