



FLRA NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2018

FLRA ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE IMPASSE DISPUTES PANEL

Colleen Duffy Kiko, Chairman of the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA), in her capacity as Chairperson of the [Foreign Service Labor Relations Board](#), announces the following re-appointment and appointments to the [Foreign Service Impasse Disputes Panel](#) (Foreign Service Panel): Shawn Hooper, of Virginia, will serve a second term as the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Member, and Brent T. Christensen and Jay R. Raman, both of Virginia, will serve their first terms as the two Foreign Service Members. The Foreign Service Panel Members serve on a part-time basis, as impasse disputes involving the Foreign Service arise.

Mr. Hooper's re-appointment, and Mr. Christensen and Mr. Raman's appointments, are effective May 10, 2018, for terms ending on May 10, 2021. They join the two other Members of the Foreign Service Panel: Mark A. Carter, who serves as the Chairman and [Federal Service Impasses Panel](#) (FSIP) Member; and Andrew R. Arthur, who serves as the public Member. Chairman Carter's term expires on January 10, 2022, and Member Arthur's term expires on July 28, 2020.

Chairman Kiko stated: "I am delighted to appoint such highly qualified individuals to serve on the Foreign Service Panel. Today's appointments restore the full complement of five Members."

Shawn Hooper has over 25 years of experience in the employee and labor-relations disciplines. He currently serves as the Director of the Office of Employee and Labor-Management Relations, Human Resources Center (HRC), at the DOL. In this capacity, he oversees all of the DOL's employee and labor relations activities, including labor and employee relations policy development and oversight. Mr. Hooper manages a team of federal human-resources professionals and senior contractors, while serving as the principal liaison to the DOL's field managers across the country. He also leads and coordinates all national labor negotiations with three DOL unions, which represent over half of the agency's 18,000 employees; and he manages the DOL's employee-relations portfolio, including arbitration and litigation strategy. Prior to his appointment to this position in 2014, Mr. Hooper served as the Administrative Officer for the HRC, where he managed all operational aspects of the organization and served as a principal senior advisor to the HRC Director. He previously served as Senior Advisor to the Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, DOL from 2005-2012; Chief of Staff, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, DOL from 2003-2005; and held senior management positions with the State of Minnesota in the areas of economic development and securities registration. Mr. Hooper is a graduate of the University of San Diego School of Law and the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He lives in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Brent T. Christensen is a career member of the Foreign Service since 2002. He currently serves as Deputy Director, Office of Regional Security and Arms Transfers, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs at the Department of State in Washington, D.C. Prior to his present assignment, Mr. Christensen was a Pearson Fellow on detail to the U.S. Congress, working on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. He has served previously as the Special Assistant in the Office for North Korea Policy, the East Asia and Pacific Affairs Bureau Cyber

Coordinator, Deputy Counselor for Economic Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Deputy Economic Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador, Bangladesh Country Officer in the Office of Pakistan and Bangladesh Affairs at the Department of State, Economic Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, and Vice Consul at the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City. Before joining the Foreign Service, he worked as a management consultant in Houston, Texas and New York City. Mr. Christensen holds a Master of Science in Statistics from Texas A&M University and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Managerial Studies from Rice University.

Jay R. Raman is a career member of the Foreign Service. He joined the State Department in 2002 and currently serves as Director of the Cultural Programs Division in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, with previous postings in Cambodia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Estonia, and the Dominican Republic. Mr. Raman has a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a B.A. in International Studies from the University of Tennessee.

The Foreign Service Panel was created by the Foreign Service Act of 1980 ([22 U.S.C. §§ 4101-4118](#)) to assist in resolving impasses arising in the course of collective bargaining under the Act over conditions of employment affecting Foreign Service personnel working for the Broadcasting Board of Governors, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Departments of State, Agriculture, and Commerce.

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 resolving disputes under, and ensuring compliance with, the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute (the Statute).

The FSIP resolves impasses between federal agencies and unions representing federal employees arising from negotiations over conditions of employment under the Statute and the Federal Employees Flexible and Compressed Work Schedules Act.

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