

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners: George Omas, Chairman;
Tony Hammond, Vice Chairman;
Dana B. Covington, Sr.; and
Ruth Y. Goldway

Complaint on Stamped Stationery

Docket No. C2004-3

NOTICE DESIGNATING SETTLEMENT COORDINATOR

(July 8, 2004)

By Order No. 1412, the Commission indicated, among other things, that it elected, pursuant to rule 85 (39 C.F.R. § 3001.85), to employ informal procedures in an effort to resolve this Docket. As a consequence, scheduling of any procedural dates was postponed pending the outcome of such negotiations.

Pursuant to rule 85, I hereby designate Shelley S. Dreifuss, Director of the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA), to serve as the settlement coordinator to coordinate efforts to achieve an informal resolution of the Complaint filed in this Docket.¹ While the OCA has served in this capacity in prior complaint cases, I would emphasize two points. First, her role is to advance discussions between the complainant, Douglas F. Carlson, and the Postal Service in an effort to facilitate a negotiated settlement. Second, as noted in Order No. 1412, the OCA, as settlement coordinator, will be bound to the principle, applicable to settlement conferences in proceedings, that negotiations pursuant to the informal procedures are privileged.

Based on a preliminary review, the Complaint would appear to be amenable to resolution, at least in certain respects, satisfactory to the Postal Service and Mr. Carlson. Settlement may nonetheless prove to be elusive. The OCA should

¹ Douglas F. Carlson Complaint on Stamped Stationery, June 24, 2004 (Complaint).

promptly initiate informal procedures in an effort to achieve a negotiated settlement.

Thirty days from the date of Order No. 1412 would appear to be sufficient to enable the principals to determine whether continued negotiation appears worthwhile.

Consequently, the OCA is directed to report on the status of such negotiations within 30 days from the date of Order No. 1412.

George Omas
Chairman