

## **Burrowing In Carousel at Special Counsel**

Rebecca McGinley came to the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) with Scott Bloch when he began as Special Counsel in January 2004. She was brought in as a “Schedule C employee.” Schedule C employees are non-competitive hires and serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Her title at the time she arrived was “Principal Special Assistant”—distinguishing her from all of the other “special assistants” he brought in.

Bloch’s first Deputy Special Counsel (also a Schedule C position) was Jim Renne. In the fall of 2005, after a debacle involving Bloch’s forced termination of OSC staff members who refused to move to a newly created Detroit field office, Renne resigned. Bloch’s Senior Advisor, Jim McVay (another Schedule C) then became his deputy.

In the spring of 2006 as the White House commissioned investigation of Bloch by the Office of Personnel Management Inspector General (OPM IG) began to heat up, McVay also left OSC and returned to Kansas. When McVay left, Bloch made Rebecca McGinley his acting Deputy Special Counsel. She began serving as his intermediary with the OPM IG.

In August 2006, Bloch advertised the Deputy Special Counsel position as a career slot. The Deputy Special Counsel position had been a Schedule C job for more than 12 years at that point. Jim Byrne’s resume was circulating at OSC even before Bloch advertised the new career Deputy job. Bloch changed the Deputy position to a career job so that he could hire Byrne, who already had a career SES slot (with the Special IG for Iraqi Reconstruction) and was not willing to come to OSC unless he could get another career SES position.

Bloch announced the hiring of Jim Byrne on January 16, 2007. On Friday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, Bloch sent out an email to all staff announcing that the following Monday, McGinley would begin a six-month detail at the U.S. attorneys office. To hold this position with the U.S. Attorney, she had to be a career employee. Thus, through this personnel shuffle, McGinley’s position was converted from a Schedule C to career service.

Even after she left for the U.S. Attorney’s office, she was nevertheless listed on the organizational chart as an employee within the “Immediate Office of the Special Counsel.” More recently, a revised OSC organizational chart showed McGinley as an attorney in the headquarters IPD (Investigation and Prosecution Division) reporting to a career supervisor. The career staff, including Ms. McGinley’s new career supervisors, did not learn of this change until the new organizational chart went out.

Throughout the transition of her status, McGinley’s actual duties did not change at all up until the end of her time at OSC. Reportedly, Bloch had converted her because he was indebted to her for doing his dirty work over the prior eight months, acting as the liaison between OSC and the OPM IG. In any event, now that she has career status, she is “burrowed in” and her continued federal employment is no longer dependent upon the patronage of Scott Bloch.

