IN MEMORIAM—ARTHUR F. ROSENFELD

Arthur F. Rosenfeld, the Director of the Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS), passed away on May 16, 2020. In the words of Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia, “the Department and the labor and employment bar have lost an accomplished lawyer and public servant, admired colleague, and treasured friend.”

Director Rosenfeld had over 40 years of labor law and labor-management experience in the private and public sectors. He managed three key Federal agencies instrumental in labor-management relations, collective bargaining, and dispute mediation and arbitration. He managed each agency with a combination of unsparing intellect and warm humor.

Director Rosenfeld began his work with OLMS in July of 2018. While OLMS Director, the agency engaged in multiple complex rulemakings, easing regulatory burdens, and increasing labor organization transparency and financial integrity. Under his leadership, OLMS processed billions of dollars of mass transit grant applications, enabling transit authorities to receive grant funds, while ensuring that arrangements were in place to protect the interests of mass transit employees. He also reintroduced a long-dormant international compliance audit program, focusing on the most difficult and complex labor organization finances.

Director Rosenfeld strengthened a voluntary compliance program by providing approximately 40 international and national union partners with compliance assistance tools and information. While leading OLMS, he introduced new training programs to ensure that OLMS investigators had the skills they needed to accomplish the agency mission. Ever mindful of our agency’s history, he joined the Deputy Secretary of Labor in commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Landrum-Griffin Act with a Department of Labor Hall of Honor induction ceremony.
Director Rosenfeld held a JD from Villanova School of Law, an MBA from Lehigh University, and a BA from Muhlenberg College. He was a member of the District of Columbia Bar and the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Director Rosenfeld was a labor law attorney for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce from 1979 to 1984, and worked as a litigation attorney for Hansell & Post from 1984 to 1986. From 1986 to 1997, he held various positions in the Department of Labor, including Acting Associate Deputy Secretary of Labor, and Special Assistant to the Solicitor. He served as Senior Labor Counsel of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions from 1997 to 2001.

The Senate unanimously confirmed Arthur F. Rosenfeld to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board on May 26, 2001. There he served, until 2006, as the chief prosecutor with final authority concerning the investigation of charges and issuance and prosecution of complaints arising under the National Labor Relations Act.

From 2006 to 2009, he was the 16th Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. While heading this independent federal agency, whose primary mission is to prevent or minimize labor-management disputes, he personally mediated disputes of national impact, including helping to end a 52-day national strike by members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers against the Boeing Company in 2008.

Later, as a private attorney, Director Rosenfeld maintained a practice specializing in labor-management dispute resolution, arbitration and mediation. He also worked for the District of Columbia Public Employee Relations Board Hearing Office.

Prior to joining OLMS, Director Rosenfeld served as Senior Counselor to the Solicitor of Labor. In that role, he provided advice to the Solicitor of Labor on representing the Secretary and client agencies in all necessary litigation, including enforcement actions and defensive litigation, and in alternative dispute resolution activities. “Arthur was an exceptional attorney and an even better friend,” said Solicitor of Labor Kate O’Scanlan. “He had a larger-than-life presence and a razor-sharp sense of humor and wit. May God bless Arthur and may he rest in eternal peace. We will miss him dearly.”

The Office of Labor-Management Standards extends heartfelt condolences to the family of Director Rosenfeld. He was an exceptional individual who led with
decisiveness and vision. His lifelong dedication to the rule of law and to labor-management harmony and equity has left a lasting impact on OLMS and on our Nation’s employers and workers.