

A Note on USCS and FMCS Directors

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USCS Directors:

When the U.S. Department of Labor was created in 1913, DOL was authorized to mediate labor-management disputes. For the next several years, staff members from other Departmental Divisions were assigned to mediate a limited number of cases. By 1917, the demand for mediation had grown as a result of the World War. To address that need, the United State Conciliation Service (USCS) was established within DOL with its own budget and staff. During the 30-year history of USCS, the three Directors (Kerwin, Steelman, Warren), during their 30-year tenure, established the practice of mediation and arbitration. For more on USCS, see several articles under the “Paper” button on this site.

FMCS Directors:

By 2014, the FMCS had existed more than twice as long as USCS. During those 67-years, the FMCS Directorship changed hands 24 times. The vast majority of Directors were appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Six others served as Acting Director for a combined total of six-years (Mills, Moffett, Baker, Flores, Barnes, and Beckenbaugh). The latter is currently serving for the third time as Acting Director. Of the 19 Directors appointed by a President, seven were appointed by a Democratic President and 12 were appointed by a Republican President. Two of the Directors appointed by a President had served as FMCS mediators (Moffett and Barnes). The longest serving Director was William Siimkin (7 years and 10 months). The second longest serving was Director Kay McMurray (6 years and 5 months). All Directors and Acting Directors have been white males.

In September 2014, President Obama announced his intention to nominate Allison Beck as the next FMCS Director. Ms. Beck will be the first woman to hold that position.