

PUCHALA SWORN IN AS CHAIR OF NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD

Linda A. Puchala assumes her seat and the board's chair of the National Mediation Board (NMB) following Senate confirmation. She has served on the NMB staff since 1999 and most recently as associate director of alternative dispute resolution services. Puchala is a former airline flight attendant and union president. She replaces Read Van de Water, a Republican who served on the board since 2003 and was the chair in July 2008. Members of the board traditionally rotate the office of chair each year in July.

Puchala joins fellow Democrat Harry Hoglander and Elizabeth Dougherty, the remaining Republican member on the board. The NMB oversees collective bargaining and representation under the Railway Labor Act, which governs labor relations in the aviation and rail industries.

(Source: BNA, *Daily Labor Report*, No. 102, June 1, 2009, pp. A14.)