During its November meeting, the Board convened two fact-finding sessions. In the morning, the Board met with Social Security Administration (SSA) Inspector General, Patrick P. O’Carroll. Mr. O’Carroll provided updates concerning the recent federal investigations his office has been involved with in Huntington, West Virginia and Puerto Rico. He also discussed the IG’s ongoing efforts in preventing Social Security fraud and identity theft, particularly with regard to the My Social Security web portal as well as Direct Deposit fraud.
In the afternoon the Board met with Glenn Sklar, SSA’s Deputy Commissioner of Disability Adjudication and Review and SSA’s Chief Administrative Law Judge, Debra Bice. The primary topic of this meeting was the role of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) hiring process. Mr. Sklar and Judge Bice discussed a brief history of the ALJ examination process at OPM and outlined the current struggles and growing case backlog, as well as the foreseeable crisis that will occur if the agency is unable to hire enough ALJs to address the growing workload.

Later that afternoon, the Board met with former Advisory Board member David Podoff. Dr. Podoff discussed plans to write a book on the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, one of the leading advocates on creating a Social Security Advisory Board back when SSA became independent in 1994. He plans to have the book published sometime in 2015, which will mark the 20th anniversary of when the Board began its work in 1995.

The Board also met in executive session several times through the day to discuss and review current Board projects, planned and proposed future projects, and the agenda for 2014.

I certify that the minutes written for the November 13, 2013 meeting of the Social Security Advisory Board are correct.

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Barbara B. Kennelly
Acting Chair
Social Security Advisory Board