

COLLEEN A. PRESTON

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition Reform)

Colleen A. Preston is currently serving as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition Reform, responsible for reengineering and improving the acquisition process by directing the conception, development, adoption, implementation, and institutionalization of new and innovative acquisition policies and processes. From Jan. 22, 1993, until assuming her current position on June 24, 1993, she



was the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Legal Matters. Prior to that appointment, she was the General Counsel, Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives. From February 1987 until her appointment as General Counsel in December 1989, she was the Assistant General Counsel. Prior to her stint as Assistant General Counsel, she was assigned as Counsel with the Investigations Subcommittee.

Since joining the Committee in 1983, she has been the primary legal advisor on procurement policy issues and related legislation. She participated in the development of numerous acquisition improvement measures, such as the provisions adopted as part of the annual National Defense Authorization Acts (including the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act, the Defense Procurement Improvement Acts of 1985 and 1986, and the Defense Procurement Reform Act of 1984), the Small Business and Federal Competition Enhancement Act, and the Competition in Contracting Act.

From 1979 to 1983, she was an attorney/advisor in the Office of the General Counsel, Secretary of the Air Force. In that position, she formulated and provided legal guidance to the Secretariat and Air Staff on acquisition and regulatory issues, defense of contractor protests, and acted as Counsel to the Air Force Contract Adjustment and Debarment and Suspension Boards.

Prior to joining the General Counsel's Office, Preston was a law clerk/associate with the firm of Akerman, Senterfitt and Eidson, Orlando, Fla.

Preston received both her B.A. in Political Science and her J.D. with Honors from the University of Florida, and her Masters of Law, with emphasis on government contracting, from Georgetown University. She attended the Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Preston received the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award in September 1994, followed by a Bronze Palm to that award in May 1996. She is also a four-time recipient of the *Federal Computer Week* Federal 100 Award.

Preston is a member of the Florida Bar, the Public Contracts Section, American Bar Association; the Board of Advisors of the National Contract Management Association; and serves on the Defense Systems Management College Alumni Association Board of Directors.