

**From:** [Communications, VCF \(CIV\)](#)  
**To:** [Communications, VCF \(CIV\)](#)  
**Subject:** A message from the Special Master  
**Date:** Friday, September 8, 2023 12:23:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good afternoon,

I am thrilled to announce that Attorney General Merrick Garland has appointed Nicole P. Smith to be the VCF's newest Deputy Special Master. Nicole has been an essential member of the VCF team since the Fund reopened on October 3, 2011, and is impeccably qualified for this position.

For the past three years, Nicole has served as Associate Special Master and has been a key member of the leadership team. She has handled a vast array of challenging policy, process, and leadership activities, and has proven herself to be action-oriented, always with the claimants' best interests in mind. I know Nicole is recognized by the entire VCF team as someone who truly leads by example, taking on new responsibilities and roles without hesitation, always focused on solutions, and providing outstanding value and support to VCF leadership and the entire team.

Many of you know Nicole through her work with our law firm liaisons, as a hearing officer, and as one of the key members of our team who represents the VCF at various outreach events and public forums. She is filling the Deputy Special Master position formerly held by Jordy Feldman, which has been vacant since Jordy's departure in late 2019. Having worked side-by-side with Nicole for the past six months, I am confident that she is fully prepared to step quickly into this role and provide the expertise, compassion, and leadership it commands.

Please join me in congratulating Nicole.

Allison

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