

Cathy L. Helm

Vice Chair, Audit Committee for the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency

Inspector General, Smithsonian Institution

Cathy L. Helm was appointed the Inspector General for the Smithsonian Institution on July 14, 2014. At the Smithsonian, she reports directly to the Smithsonian Board of Regents and Congress. As the Inspector General, she oversees an office of auditors, special agents, and other staff. The office is responsible for conducting audits and investigations relating to Smithsonian programs and operations; keeping the Board of Regents and Congress informed about problems and deficiencies; promoting efficiency and effectiveness within the Smithsonian; and preventing and detecting cases of fraud, waste and abuse.

In addition, Ms. Helm serves as the Vice Chair of the Audit Committee for the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) and the Chair of CIGIE's working group of inspectors general for small Offices of Inspectors General (OIG). She also serves on the Comptroller General's Advisory Council on Government Auditing Standards.

Prior to joining the Smithsonian, Ms. Helm worked at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) where she served in various roles in Washington, D.C., and Frankfurt, Germany. In her last position as deputy inspector general, she helped lead the audit and investigative programs as well as the office's transition from an administrative to a statutory OIG. During her GAO career, she managed multi-disciplinary audit teams that evaluated a variety of government programs, including agriculture, defense, energy, environmental protection, federal land management, international affairs, procurement, and transportation.

Ms. Helm graduated from George Washington University with a master's in public administration and earned her bachelor's degree with magna cum laude honors at Western Kentucky University.