HOLDING OURSELVES ACCOUNTABLE:

CIGIE’s Integrity Committee

- Kevin H. Winters
  Chairperson

- Robert P. Storch
  Vice Chairperson
“To receive, review, and refer for investigation allegations of wrongdoing that are made against Inspectors General and staff members of the various Offices of Inspector General.”

Integrity Committee Review Process

To be actionable, the complaint must both:

• Concern a **Covered Person** and

• Alleged **Wrongdoing**
Covered Persons

• Approximately 468
  • Inspector General
  • Inspector General’s direct reports
  • Staff members designated by IG
  • Special Counsel and Principal Deputy Special Counsel
  • Anyone Acting or Interim in the above roles
  • Legislative Branch OIG investigators
Wrongdoing

• Abuse of authority

• Substantial misconduct (e.g., gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, or a substantial violation of law, rule, or regulation)

• Conduct that undermines the independence or integrity reasonably expected of the position
Overview of the Integrity Committee Process

- **Incoming Written Complaint**
  - **Timeframe:** 7 days
  - **Group:**
    - Criminal
    - Prohibited Personnel Practice
    - Other

- **Integrity Committee**
  - **Time Frame:** 30 days
    - Additional Info Required?
      - Yes → Request info/response
      - No → No
    - Allegation refuted?
      - Yes → Initiate Investigation
      - No → Complete Draft Report
      - Closure w/ Notifications

- **Time Frame:** 150 days
  - Subject Review & Comment on Draft
  - Issue Final ROI to Appointing Authority & Oversight Committees

- **DOJ for Review**
- **OSC for Review**
IC Review Outcomes

• Close the matter
• Refer the matter to another agency
• Request additional information
• Request a response

• Refer the matter for investigation
  • Limited Scope
  • Full-scale
• Absent cognizable wrongdoing, refer the matter to the CIGIE Chairperson
What if the IC asks me to respond to allegations?

• Don’t Panic and Do Something You May Regret, Like . . .
  • Attempt to identify the complainant
  • Retaliate
  • Pressure or manipulate potential witnesses
• Contact us* if you have questions
• Respond
  • Address each allegation professionally
  • More than a denial; provide relevant facts and evidence
What if the IC notifies me that I am a **Subject** in an IC investigation?

**Do**
- Cooperate
- Delegate
- Encourage staff to cooperate
- Follow directions of investigating OIG

**Don’t**
- Interfere w/ the investigation
- Remove/destroy evidence or tell witnesses what to say
- Limit access to requested OIG info and witnesses
- Ask staff what they told investigators
- Retaliate
INVESTIGATION PROCESS

Assisting OIG Conducts Investigation → OIG Provides Draft Report to IC for Review → Draft to Subject for Comment

President → IC Issues Final Report

Agency Head → PAS

IC Issues Final Report → DFE

Comments to IC and Assisting OIG for Review/Consideration
IC Matters FY13 – FY21

Cases Reviewed and Pending Investigations

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<th>FY 13</th>
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Incoming Communications

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FY21 Data

3,917 Incoming Communications

65 Cases Reviewed by ARG and IC

IC issued 14 requests for add’l info sought 13 responses from subjects

54 cases closed

39 = no threshold standard of wrongdoing established, e.g., allegations were vague, conclusory, or previously addressed
7 = response sufficiently refuted allegations
8 = referred to another agency

7 cases pending

Pending IC review at end of FY

4

Removed duplicates, outside purview, and spam

Referred for investigation
Communicating With the Integrity Committee

• Obligation to Refer Matters to the IC

• Effective Transmittals

• Use IC Staff, don’t contact IC members
How do I file / refer a complaint?

Integrity-Complaint@cigie.gov
or
Attn: Integrity Committee
CIGIE
1717 H St., NW
Washington, DC 20006

What if I have a question?

Integrity-WG@cigie.gov