

John K. Needham

John Needham is the Assistant Inspector General for Auditing (AIGA) at the Small Business Administration. As the AIGA, he provides direction of the audit division's work on SBA's loan guarantees; disaster assistance loans; business development and preferential contracting activities; and agency financial and technology management.

Prior to joining SBA's Office of Inspector General in May 2011 he was a Director in GAO's Acquisition and Sourcing Management (ASM) Team. His issues portfolio included acquisition strategies and inter-agency contracting; acquisition workforce, agency insourcing; contractor ethics and integrity, and contractor management. As a part of GAO's evaluation of the implementation of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, he was the senior executive responsible for crosscutting federal, state and local procurement issues related to the Recovery Act and the lead GAO executive for the one of the sixteen states GAO reviewed, managing relations with the Governor's Office and state legislative oversight bodies. He has led reviews of acquisition and contracting practices at the Departments of Defense, notably its acquisition of commercial satellite services during the Iraq war, the Department Homeland Security's use of special authorities in acquiring advanced technology and the GSA's, VA's, and NASA's interagency contracting programs. He has testified as a GAO witness before Senate and House Committees on these issues. He led GAO's assessment of the government's initial response to Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi. During the recovery period he led a review that identified best practices to improve contracting in federal disaster recovery operations.

Assigned to the House Armed Services Sub-Committee on Investigations and Oversight in 2007, he contributed to its investigation of the Iraqi Security Forces, specifically identifying improvements needed in the recruitment, training and deployment of American advisors in Iraq. Earlier he was GAO's project director for the design, development, and implementation of the agency's competency based performance management system, in this capacity he directed GAO's performance management and internal consulting unit. He also directed reviews covering the National Performance Review's improvements, competitive contracting and public private partnerships. He had a lead role in GAO's internal quality improvement initiatives to streamline project management processes. His prior experience includes head of management audits at the Tennessee Valley Authority's Office of Inspector General and as a professional staff member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Prior to joining GAO as a presidential management intern, he worked in local government in Arizona. His military service was as an Army National Guard Military Policeman. He received his MPA degree from Arizona State University and a bachelor's from Manhattan College in New York City. In 2007, he completed the Capstone General and Flag Officer Program at the National Defense University. He is the recipient of GAO's Distinguished Service Award and Meritorious Service Award.