



COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL
ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

PROFESSIONAL CAREERS BEYOND AUDIT, INVESTIGATIONS, & LEGAL

“SO, YOU WANT TO BE CHIEF OF STAFF...”

LEAD & LEARN

JUNE 30, 2022 | 1-2PM EST

AGENDA AND BIOS





AGENDA

- ❖ **Welcome and Introduction of Speakers**
- ❖ **Topics of Discussion**
 - ❖ **Functions and Responsibilities of a Chief of Staff**
 - ❖ **Value Added and Challenges**
 - ❖ **Now What...Next Steps**
 - ❖ **Prepare / Learn More**
 - ❖ **Skills / Experiences**
 - ❖ **Connections / Relationships**

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FARA DAMELIN

CHIEF OF STAFF

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT OIG

Ms. Fara Damelin was appointed Chief of Staff for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General (HUD OIG) in July 2021. In this role, she is responsible for leading a team of professionals to support HUD OIG's execution of oversight responsibilities, strategic initiatives, and daily operations.

Ms. Damelin has more than 25 years of experience in the Federal service, most recently serving as Deputy Inspector General for AmeriCorps between February 2018 and July 2021. In that role, she was responsible for moving the Inspector General's vision forward, and formulating, implementing, and evaluating OIG policies, strategies, priorities, and goals. She supervised five senior oversight executives and managers and oversaw the daily operations of the offices of audit, information technology, investigation, legal and administrative sections. In addition, she served as the statutory Whistleblower Protection Coordinator, handled congressional outreach and media inquiries, led the production of semiannual reports, and actively participated in various committees, working groups, and cross cutting initiatives sponsored by the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE).

Prior to her tenure with AmeriCorps OIG, Ms. Damelin served for over 14 years with the National Science Foundation (NSF) OIG, initially as an Investigative Attorney, and subsequently as Director, Office of Investigations Legal Division. She was also appointed as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Maryland and second chaired a two-week criminal grant fraud trial that resulted in felony conviction. Ms. Damelin was selected to serve as a CIGIE Fellow with the General Services Administration OIG where she focused on strategic internal communications. She is a graduate of the Office of Personnel Management Federal Executive Institute's Leadership for a Democratic Society program and an adjunct instructor for the CIGIE Inspector General Academy.

She began her Federal career by serving for eight years as an employment attorney in the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the General Counsel, representing the agency in discrimination complaints before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and adverse action appeals before the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Ms. Damelin received a Juris Doctor degree from George Washington University Law School in 1994, and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from SUNY Binghamton in 1991.

MODERATOR





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ROBERT JOHNSTON

CHIEF OF STAFF

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OIG

Mr. Robert (Rob) Johnston has been the Chief of Staff to the Inspector General at the Department of Commerce (DOC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) since October 2018. Rob is in his second stint with DOC OIG; he first joined the Office of Counsel in 2010 as an Assistant Counsel. From 2014-15, Rob was a Deputy Associate Counsel in the White House Counsel's Office, and then joined the Department of Interior as Counselor to the Solicitor and as an attorney advisor in the Office of General Law. Rob re-joined DOC OIG in 2017 as a Senior Associate Counsel before becoming Chief of Staff. Prior to federal service, Rob clerked for a U.S. District Judge in the Southern District of Texas and was in private practice with two international law firms, Latham & Watkins and White & Case.

Rob graduated with a B.A. from the College of William and Mary and received his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law. His son and daughter are sixth-generation Washingtonians, who cheer for the Washington Capitals whether they like it or not. Rob and his family enjoy outdoor activities (his 7 year-old son has caught more than 20 species of fish!), traveling, sports, and sampling the amazing D.C. restaurant scene.





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JAY LERNER

INSPECTOR GENERAL

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION OIG

Mr. Jay Lerner was sworn in as the third Presidentially-appointed Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Inspector General (IG) on January 9, 2017. He also holds several other leadership positions in the IG community, serving as Vice Chair of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's (CIGIE) Legislation Committee and Vice Chair of CIGIE's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Work Group. He is also a Member of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC).

Mr. Lerner previously worked as the Chief of Staff and Senior Counsel at the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (OIG). In this role, he provided leadership in the strategic and policy direction for the Office, as well as input into the overall planning, operations, and management of the Office, including all five of its divisions. Prior to this position, Mr. Lerner held other senior positions at Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, and the Transportation Security Administration.

Mr. Lerner has taught several courses on criminal law and law enforcement issues at George Washington University, the National Advocacy Center, and elsewhere. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, a Bachelor of Science degree in Accountancy from the University of Illinois, and passed the Certified Public Accountant Examination.





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PARISA SALEHI

INSPECTOR GENERAL

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES OIG

Ms. Parisa Salehi was sworn in as the Inspector General for the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) on March 14, 2022, following her confirmation by the U.S. Senate. Appointed by the President, Ms. Salehi is responsible for leading a diverse workforce to provide oversight of EXIM programs and operations through independent audits, investigations, inspections, and evaluations.

Prior to her appointment to be Inspector General, Ms. Salehi was the Chief of Staff at the Office of Inspector General (OIG) at the U.S. Department of State (State). There, she provided executive leadership to a global workforce of auditors, investigators, and inspectors providing oversight of State and the U.S. Agency for Global Media programs and operations. She also served in a Senior Executive Service role at the U.S. Agency for International Development OIG and was the Acting Inspector General and the Counsel to the Inspector General at EXIM OIG. Before joining EXIM OIG, Ms. Salehi served at the U.S. Department of Agriculture for nearly five years.

Ms. Salehi started her career as an attorney in the District of Columbia working for prominent law firms, specializing in financial industry and white-collar criminal investigations, before joining the Federal Government. She was also an Adjunct Professor at Howard University School of Law.

Ms. Salehi earned her Juris Doctor from Howard University School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts in international studies from the University of Oregon. She is a member of the bar in both the District of Columbia and Arizona.





AMANDA SEESE

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PANDEMIC RESPONSE ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

As Associate Director for Oversight and Accountability (O&A), Amanda Seese provides executive leadership and strategic direction for the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee's (PRAC) auditing, evaluations and investigative functions, which produce critical and coordinated oversight for more than \$5 trillion in pandemic funding.

Prior to joining the PRAC, Amanda spent nearly 12 years at the Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General (DOT OIG), serving in variety of roles including Project Manager, Chief of Staff, and Assistant Inspector General for Strategic Communications and Programs. From 2019-2022, she served as DOT OIG's first-ever Assistant Inspector General for Strategic Communications and Programs, standing up a new Division and overseeing a variety of activities and programs that provided strategic value, critical advice, and mission support across the agency, including: Budget and Financial Management; Government and Public Affairs; Civility, Diversity, and Inclusion; Communications; Organizational Development; and Administrative Professional and Executive Assistant Services. Amanda is very excited about today's conversation, as she spent more than 5 years (from 2015-2019) in her role as DOT OIG's Chief of Staff and learned a great deal throughout her experience.

Ms. Seese began her career in government oversight and auditing at the U.S. Government Accountability Office in 2006. She then moved to Computer Sciences Corporation in Arlington, VA, where she helped the Missile Defense Agency enhance its relationship with government auditors. She rejoined the Federal auditing ranks at the Special IG for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, where she reviewed homeowner retention programs.

Ms. Seese's achievements have been recognized by awards from the Secretary of Transportation and the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. In October 2018, she received DOT OIG's highest honor, the Inspector General's Distinguished Service Award, in recognition of her achievement of results with a lasting impact and her commitment to the core values of "Mission First, People Always."

Ms. Seese holds a bachelor's degree in broadcast news from Kent State University. She lives in Northern VA with her husband, Tim, their three-year-old son, Declan, and their sweet hound dog, Willow.





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**THE PANEL DISCUSSION WILL BE RECORDED
AND POSTED ON THE PDC WEBSITE**

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