



Council of the
INSPECTORS GENERAL
on INTEGRITY and EFFICIENCY

Chief FOIA Officer: Mark Greenblatt, Executive Director (Acting)
Chief FOIA Officer's Report
April 16, 2019

The Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) submits this report in accordance with the Attorney General's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Guidelines issued on March 19, 2009, calling upon agencies to reaffirm the Federal Government's "commitment to accountability and transparency," and as directed in the Guidelines for 2019 Chief FOIA Officers Reports. CIGIE is a small-volume entity, receiving less than 50 FOIA requests per year.

CIGIE's mission is to "address integrity, economy, and effectiveness issues that transcend individual Government agencies, and increase the professionalism and effectiveness of personnel by developing policies, standards and approaches to aid in the establishment of a well-trained and highly skilled workforce in the offices of the Inspectors General." CIGIE's membership consists of 74 Federal Inspectors General, the Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget (DDM/OMB), and 5 other executives from integrity-related Federal agencies. CIGIE is led by an elected Inspector General member who serves as Chairperson. CIGIE's Executive Chairperson is the DDM/OMB. CIGIE currently has 11 employees who support the activities and mission of CIGIE.

Oversight.gov

Over the past year, CIGIE has continued to take steps to apply the presumption of openness through the greater utilization of technology. These steps are best reflected in the improvements that have been made to Oversight.gov.

As reported in last year's Chief FOIA Officer Report, on October 1, 2017, CIGIE launched a new website, Oversight.gov. Oversight.gov is a publicly accessible, searchable website containing the latest public reports from Federal Inspectors General who are members of CIGIE. Between March 2018 and March 2019, CIGIE continued to operate and enhance Oversight.gov. During this time, Inspectors General uploaded more than 2,400 new oversight reports that, prior to Oversight.gov, would have been distributed across approximately 70 separate government websites. The website now contains a total of over 11,000 reports. In addition, through this website, CIGIE has continued to provide the public with near real-time information about the amount of potential savings Inspectors General have identified.

Moreover, CIGIE enhanced the site by, among other things, developing an “advanced search” feature that allows users to use more complicated search terms when searching for reports.

FOIA Program

The CIGIE FOIA program underwent a significant change over the past year. On December 16, 2016, the Inspector General Empowerment Act of 2016, Public Law 114-317, 130 Stat. 1595 (IGEA) was signed into law by the President thereby amending the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, 5 U.S.C. app., (IG Act) and expanding CIGIE’s records maintenance responsibilities to include maintenance of the records of CIGIE’s Integrity Committee by CIGIE’s Chairperson. Integrity Committee records were previously maintained pursuant to the IG Act by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). On October 3, 2018, CIGIE published a revision to its FOIA regulations to conform with the IGEA requirements. In part, the revisions specified that CIGIE has a centralized FOIA program and requesters should no longer submit their FOIA requests for Integrity Committee-related records to the FBI. The updated FOIA regulations also incorporated certain changes made to FOIA, 5 U.S.C. 552, by the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, Public Law 114-185, 130 Stat. 538 (June 30, 2016).

Due to the anticipated increase in volume and complexity in FOIA requests and its current backlog, CIGIE is working to implement various improvements to its FOIA program. CIGIE is and will continue to work closely with its external FOIA servicing office, the U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General, to effect such improvements. For Fiscal Year 2019, the focus is on internal logistics and communication. As a micro-agency without any internal full-time staff, ensuring the servicing office, those who maintain records, and those who review records are effectively communicating and coordinating can be challenging. CIGIE is leveraging its existing technology to aid in this effort so that request status and FOIA files can be readily accessed by all those involved in the process.

CIGIE’s goal in Fiscal Year 2019 is to both keep up with the anticipated increase in volume of requests and reduce the backlog.