

STRENGTHENING

the Inspector General Community and Creating the IG Council

WHEN THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978 WAS ENACTED, IT WAS AN entirely new concept for government oversight. Inspectors General had great success in performing their critical oversight function. Their work often resulted in transformational changes.

In 2008, Congress created institutional changes in the Inspector General community to strengthen their authority, independence, and collaboration to address issues that cut across the government. The Inspector General Reform Act of 2008 combined the two Councils established by the Executive orders into a statutorily created Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE). CIGIE's statutory mission was to address integrity, economy, and effectiveness issues that transcend individual government agencies. CIGIE established a robust training academy to provide training for the thousands of Inspector General employees. The 2008 Reform Act also strengthened Inspector General independence by giving the Inspectors General budget autonomy, independent counsel, and required that Congress be notified 30 days by the President or agency head before removing an Inspector General.

In 2016, Inspectors General called upon Congress for additional legislative support. The IG Empowerment Act of 2016 confirmed that Inspectors General are entitled to full and prompt access to all agency records, thereby eliminating any doubt about whether agencies are legally authorized to disclose potentially sensitive information to Inspectors General. In so doing, this act ensures that Inspectors General have the information and documents that are essential to independently and efficiently conduct their audits, inspections, and investigations.

Every 2 years, the 73 Inspectors General vote to elect the CIGIE Chair.



Michael Horowitz
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
CIGIE Chair 2016–Present



Phyllis Fong
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Agriculture
CIGIE Chair 2008–2016

Public Law 110–409
110th Congress

An Act

To amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to enhance the independence of the Inspectors General, to create a Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Inspector General Reform Act of 2008”.

SEC. 2. APPOINTMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS OF INSPECTORS GENERAL.

Section 8G(c) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end “Each Inspector General shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability in accounting, auditing, financial analysis, law, management analysis, public administration, or investigations.”.



Council of the
INSPECTORS GENERAL
on INTEGRITY and EFFICIENCY