INSPECTOR GENERAL STEPHEN B. STREET, JR.

Stephen Street has served as Louisiana’s Inspector General since January of 2008, and was confirmed by the Louisiana Senate for a second six-year term that runs through January of 2020. The Louisiana State Inspector General is an independent office dedicated to investigating fraud and public corruption.

Mr. Street received his law degree in 1989 from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University. The bulk of his years as a practicing attorney have been spent in the field of criminal law at the state and federal levels -- first as a criminal staff lawyer with the Third Circuit Court of Appeal in Lake Charles, and later both defending and prosecuting serious criminal cases. Mr. Street has extensive experience as lead trial counsel in a wide variety of cases, from capital murder to complex white collar and economic crime.

From 2000 until his appointment as Inspector General, Mr. Street exclusively handled white-collar fraud and public corruption prosecutions as the Section Chief of the Louisiana Attorney General's Insurance Fraud Support Unit. Investigations/prosecutions handled by the unit ranged from basic claims fraud to multi-defendant insurance fraud, money laundering, and conspiracy cases.

Mr. Street is a Certified Inspector General (CIG), and regularly conducts training on white collar and economic crime investigation. He continues to serve as an instructor for the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C), teaching courses on Financial Investigation Practical Skills (FIPS) offered to law enforcement throughout the United States. Mr. Street also serves as an adjunct instructor for the Inspector General Criminal Investigator Academy’s Public Corruption Investigation Training Program, and for the National Association of Inspectors General (AIG) certification institutes.

On November 14, 2016, Mr. Street was re-elected to a second two-year term as President of the AIG, comprised of over 1,600 members from the Inspector General, Law Enforcement and Oversight communities of the United States, U.S. territories and several foreign countries.
January 8, 2018 marked the 10 year anniversary of my appointment as Louisiana’s State Inspector General. It has been an amazing 10 years, and I still count it a great honor and privilege to serve the people of Louisiana. The Inspector General business is not for the faint of heart. It requires a thick skin and a steely resolve. Our mission is to find the truth -- whatever it may be -- and measure it against the law without regard to partisan politics, allegiances, status or influence. Today, that mission has never been more important.

The Office of State Inspector General (OIG) is now in its 30th year of existence.

STEPHEN B. STREET
INSPECTOR GENERAL

Originally created in 1988 by executive order of Governor Buddy Roemer, the office has undergone significant transformation since my appointment in 2008. For its first 20 years, OIG had operated primarily as an internal audit shop. In 2008, major legislation was passed, establishing the Louisiana OIG as an independent, statutorily empowered law enforcement agency specializing in criminal public corruption investigations.

OIG is staffed with seasoned law enforcement professionals experienced in complex white collar fraud and public corruption investigations, and continues to work closely in partnership with state and federal law enforcement, with an eye toward securing indictments and convictions. Over the past ten years, OIG has proven to be extremely effective in fighting Louisiana corruption. Nevertheless, we have been forced to deal with challenges in recent years that have made it much harder to do the job the way the citizens demand and deserve. Foremost among these has been the lack of proper funding for the office. The negative effects of a nearly 25% staff reduction in the 2015 and 2016 budget cycles are becoming more evident. In spite of this, OIG continues to perform at a level that significantly exceeds its annual budget. I am pleased to report that in 2017, OIG was restored to full funding and is now in the process of rehiring staff. This is indeed good news, because history has proven that when OIG is given baseline resources, it gets results.

The people of Louisiana have made clear that they no longer have any tolerance for fraud and corruption, and expect their public servants to do something about it. As this report demonstrates, I and the professionals with whom I work remain committed to doing just that.

Very Respectfully,

Stephen B. Street, Jr., C.I.G.
OIG MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

MISSION (La. R.S. 49:220.21 et seq)

- Primary mission to investigate fraud, waste and public corruption
- Primary jurisdiction over executive branch and all of its contractors, sub-contractors, grantees and sub-grantees
- Authorized to conduct joint investigations with other law enforcement and oversight agencies

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Access to confidential law enforcement databases
- Authority to obtain Criminal Investigative Subpoenas
- Authority to obtain Criminal Arrest Warrants
- Authority to obtain and execute Criminal Search Warrants
- P.O.S.T. Certified Criminal Investigators
- Staffed with seasoned law enforcement professionals whose primary objective is to work successful criminal cases and to root out and prevent fraud and corruption in government

INDEPENDENCE AND SAFEGUARDS

- Six year term for Inspector General, subject to Senate confirmation
- Current term of IG Stephen Street expires in January of 2020
- Inspector General may not be removed by Governor without majority vote of both House and Senate
- Inspector General salary protection
- Reports final upon Inspector General signature
- Restrictions on holding and seeking elected office
- Statutory confidentiality of Inspector General investigations with criminal penalty for violation
- Independent Counsel

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1 The IG’s six year term overlaps the four year term of the Governor, which is an effort to keep the appointment non-political.
The amount of OIG’s annual State General Fund appropriation represents just .007% of Louisiana’s overall state budget. In spite of the relatively small amount required to fund the agency, the numbers demonstrate year after year that the Louisiana Inspector General remains a highly productive public corruption unit.

- Since 2012, OIG has a **97% success rate** in federal criminal prosecutions arising from its investigations

- OIG’s main performance measure -- the three-year average of fraud and corruption identified -- has consistently exceeded its state general fund appropriation, but the graph below shows a downward trend from the impact of budget reductions. Although OIG has many cases in the pipeline, it must be restored to full staffing in order to achieve maximum productivity.
FRAUD, WASTE AND CORRUPTION

OIG Three Year Average from FY 15 through FY 17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dollars Identified</th>
<th>OIG General Fund Appropriation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 15 -- $9,764,203</td>
<td>FY 15 -- $1,980,820</td>
<td>492%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 16 -- $8,819,273</td>
<td>FY 16 -- $1,868,078</td>
<td>472%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 17 -- $3,745,199</td>
<td>FY 17 -- $1,692,465²</td>
<td>221%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complaints Received/Investigations Opened

**FY 2017**

- Complaints Received: 376
- Investigations Opened: 60

**FY 2016**

- Complaints Received: 401
- Investigations Opened: 42

**FY 2015**

- Complaints Received: 439
- Investigations Opened: 43

² OIG’s budget was cut by 20% in the 2016 session, resulting in the loss of nearly 25% of investigative field staff. See Impact of Budget Reductions.
IMPACT OF BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Over several budget cycles prior to 2017, OIG lost nearly 25% of its investigative field staff due to budget cuts. These included an attempt in May of 2016 to completely defund and effectively close down the office. After much negative media attention and citizen pushback, OIG funds were restored, but only to 80% of the amount required to fully fund the office. The loss of experienced law enforcement personnel continues to negatively affect the ability of OIG to timely handle the large and complex criminal corruption investigations for which it is known.

In the 2017 budget cycle, funds were finally restored to begin rehiring for the lost positions, but the effect of previous cuts remains. OIG recently filled two of the four positions that were lost, but the other two field level positions remain vacant due to uncertainty over whether the funds for those positions will be available after July 1, 2017.

Though OIG’s three year average of fraud and corruption identified still consistently exceeds its annual state general fund appropriation, those numbers have trended downward and will be difficult (if not impossible) to maintain if the office is forced to continue operating with reduced personnel. The restoration of funds was a positive development, but OIG must return to full staffing in order to fully return to its accustomed productivity. That has not yet occurred, as seen below:

OIG Staffing Levels

**2015-2016 -- T.O. 17 positions (17 total staff)**
- 4 Auditors
- 10 Criminal Investigators
- 1 Administrative Assistant
- 1 General Counsel
- 1 Inspector General

**Staff after cuts in 2016 session – T.O. 16 positions (3 unfunded) (13 total staff)**
- 2 Auditors
- 8 Criminal Investigators (1 auditor position converted to criminal investigator)
- 1 Administrative Assistant
- 1 General Counsel
- 1 Inspector General

**Present Staff after funding restored in 2017 session – T.O. 16 positions (14 total staff)**
- 1 Auditor (1 Auditor vacancy)
- 10 Criminal Investigators (1 Criminal Investigator vacancy)
- 1 Administrative Assistant
- 1 General Counsel
- 1 Inspector General
Former Major at Angola Prison
Convicted of Federal Obstruction
Offenses in Connection with Beating of Handcuffed and Shackled Inmate

(United States Attorney Press Release, January 29, 2018)

A former Major at Louisiana State Penitentiary (LSP) in Angola, Louisiana, was found guilty in federal court for conspiring to cover up the beating of a handcuffed and shackled inmate, and for writing a false report, falsifying official records, and lying under oath about what happened.

After four days of trial, a jury convicted Daniel Davis, 41, of Loranger, Louisiana, on four charges related to the cover up. The jury heard evidence that Davis and three other supervisory officers used excessive force against an inmate who was shackled and handcuffed. The other three officers -- former Captains James Savoy, 39, John Sanders, 30, and Scotty Kennedy, 49 -- had all previously pleaded guilty to various federal charges related to the beating and the conspiracy to cover it up.

“It is especially disheartening when those entrusted with power and authority in our criminal justice system choose to violate that trust,” said Louisiana Inspector General Stephen Street. “It is outrageous and threatens the integrity of the system. The Louisiana OIG remains committed to working with the U.S. Department of Justice, the FBI and all of our state and local law enforcement partners to root out this sort of corruption wherever it may exist, and these successful criminal prosecutions of four Louisiana Department of Corrections officers are the latest demonstration of that. I wish to thank Acting United States Attorney Corey Amundson and his staff, as well as the prosecutors from the DOJ Civil Rights Division, for an outstanding job presenting the case.”
Former School Owner and CEO Sentenced to 30 Months in Federal Prison for Federal Financial Aid Fraud Scheme

(United States Attorney Press Release, January 23, 2018)

Acting United States Attorney Corey R. Amundson announced today that on Friday, January 19, 2018, Chief U.S. District Judge Brian A. Jackson sentenced ALDEN HALL, age 58, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to serve 30 months in federal prison for her multi-year scheme to defraud the United States Department of Education and steal Pell Grant funds.

Louisiana State Inspector General Stephen Street commented, “This is a case of brazen and calculated fraud that had a direct impact on innocent citizens who had legitimate need for this financial aid. In our view, the prison sentence was entirely appropriate and sends a message that anyone who steals from the taxpayers had better be prepared to go to jail for it. Louisiana OIG will continue working with our law enforcement partners to make sure of it.”

Thibodaux Woman Pleads Guilty to Wire Fraud

(United States Attorney Press Release, January 8, 2018)

Acting U.S. Attorney Duane A. Evans announced that JILL ANDRAS LEBLANC, a/k/a JILL FREMIN, age 41, of Thibodaux, pled guilty to one count of wire fraud and one count of theft of government funds.

LEBLANC stole several hundred thousand dollars from her terminally ill mother and disabled sister, and spent those funds on personal, frivolous items.

Acting U.S. Attorney Evans praised the work of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation and the Louisiana State Inspector General in investigating this matter...
Chief Financial Officer of Non-Profit Sentenced for Theft of Federal Grant Funds

(United States Attorney Press Release, December 20, 2017)

Acting U.S. Attorney Duane A. Evans announced that RICKEY ROBERSON, age 49, of New Orleans, was sentenced today after previously pleading guilty to one count of theft of federal grant funds. U.S. District Judge Kurt D. Engelhardt sentenced ROBERSON to 13 months imprisonment, restitution in the amount of $84,308.

ROBERSON had previously pled guilty to using Community Development Block Grant federal funds to pay for his daughter’s cellphone bill in the amount of $4,663. As part of his plea agreement, ROBERSON agreed that he also used federal grant funds to pay for his son’s cellphone bill, personal travel, satellite radio, concert tickets, medical bills for his children, cruise expenses, and repairs to a personal Cadillac Escalade and Audi TT.

Acting U.S. Attorney Evans praised the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Louisiana State Inspector General, the Office of State Inspector General, and Louisiana Legislative Auditor’s Office in investigating this matter.
Former Veterans Affairs Nurse Pleads Guilty to Felony Filing False Public Records

(40th Judicial District Court Records, IG Press Release, November 29, 2017)

Cheryl Poirrier, 60, of Reserve, Louisiana, pleaded guilty to one count of filing false public records, a felony under Louisiana law. Poirrier, a former nurse, was arrested in 2016 on a felony warrant obtained by the Louisiana State Inspector General after creating a false paper trail to cover up her neglect of an elderly patient who died at a Louisiana Veterans Hospital.

OIG investigators determined that after the resident’s death was discovered, Poirrier prepared and filed reports falsely stating that she had performed four separate neuro checks on the resident. These reports were entered into the system between 7:40 am and 7:48 am on January 9, 2015. Investigation determined that Poirrier conducted no neuro checks on the resident.

Based on the above, a felony warrant was obtained for four counts of Filing False Public Records (La. R.S. 14:133) and one count of Malfeasance in Office (La. R.S. 14:134). The warrant was signed by 40th Judicial District Judge J. Sterling Snowdy. Poirrier was booked into the St. John Parish Prison by members of the Louisiana Department of Justice Fugitive Apprehension Unit.

Louisiana Inspector General Stephen Street said, “We owe our Veterans the highest degree of professional care. Ms. Poirrier not only failed to honor that obligation, but made the situation worse by falsifying records to cover up that failure. That can never be tolerated. We will continue to do everything in our power to bring about criminal consequences in such cases.”
OIG Criminal Investigator Tom Boulton Receives Outstanding Collaborative Investigation Award from United States Department of Justice

October 26, 2017 -- Baton Rouge – Tom Boulton, a Criminal Investigator and Supervisor with the Louisiana Office of State Inspector General (OIG), has been honored by the United States Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of Louisiana for his investigative work in United States of America v. Alden Hall.

Boulton, who previously served for 12 years as an investigator with the Economic Crimes Unit of the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney’s Office, joined the Inspector General’s Office in 2008. Louisiana Inspector General Stephen Street noted that Boulton has played a vital role in many successful criminal cases since joining OIG. “Tom has a wealth of knowledge and experience conducting white collar criminal investigations, and has been a great asset to OIG. It is not surprising that he should receive this honor, and the positive results of this and other cases he has worked speak for themselves.”
New Roads mayor agrees to resign, pleads no contest over misuse of credit cards
(Baton Rouge Advocate, October 19, 2017)

New Roads Mayor Robert Myer has promised to resign from office and never seek it again as part of a plea deal he reached with district prosecutors Thursday over allegations he misused city-issue credit cards and used his position to coerce city employees into actions for his personal gain.

He was accused of using a city-issued credit card for personal transactions and conspiring with Cherie Rockforte-Laviolette, the city's former chief financial officer, whom he allegedly allowed to make more than $9,000 in personal charges on city cards between Jan. 1, 2011, through Dec. 31, 2014, in exchange for sexual favors during that time.

State investigators alleged the mayor also charged $165,777 on the city's various credit card accounts between Jan. 1, 2011, through Oct. 1, 2014 — of which, more than $11,000 they believe was for personal items. He wrote personal checks totaling $9,527 to the city in what investigators think were reimbursements for personal expenses.

An investigative report from the state's Inspector General Office later revealed that Rockforte-Laviolette told state investigators that Myer ordered her and the town's police chief to delete and alter information on credit card statements after the city received a public record's request to review them.
Councilwoman convicted for stealing $37,000 from Town of Arcadia

(Shreveport Times, September 26, 2017)

A jury has convicted a former Arcadia town clerk — and current member of the town council — of theft for stealing cash collected from residents paying their water bills.

The jury convicted Councilwoman Patricia C. Hampton on Thursday of felony theft in connection with the theft of more than $39,000 from 2007 to 2010, Assistant District Attorney Russell Davis said Tuesday.

“Hampton is the last of two former employees of Arcadia to have either been found guilty or pled guilty to felony theft,” Bienville Parish District Attorney Danny Newell said in a statement Tuesday. "The Town will begin recovering these stolen funds through restitution payments from both defendants.”

Newell thanked Inspector General Stephen Street and investigator Tom Boulton, both of the Louisiana Inspector General's Office, for their help in investigating the case.

U.S. Attorney’s Office indicts former Avoyelles Correctional Center warden, wife on fraud charges

(United States Attorney Press Release, August 11, 2017)

ALEXANDRIA, La. – Acting U.S. Attorney Alexander C. Van Hook announced today that the former warden for the Avoyelles Correctional Center and his wife were indicted for fraud.

Nathan Burl Cain II, 50, and Tonia Bandy Cain, 42, both of Moreauville, La., were indicted by a federal grand jury on 18 charges. According to the indictment, Nathan Cain was the warden of Avoyelles Correctional Center located in Cottonport, La., and Tonia Cain served as the manager of the business office of the facility. They are accused of using Louisiana Department of Corrections credit cards to purchase items for personal use while misrepresenting that the items were bought for official use between December of 2012 and January 2016.

The FBI and the Louisiana Office of Inspector General conducted the investigation.
Two resign from Angola prison amid fresh scandal alleging self-dealing in firearms training

(Baton Rouge Advocate, April 18, 2018)

Two longtime employees of the Angola state penitentiary have resigned during the past week in the wake of yet another scandal alleging self-dealing at the state’s maximum-security prison.

Richard Barton, a major, and Joe Turner, a master sergeant, were in charge of operating the rifle range at the prison, where correctional employees from around the state came for firearms training.

An investigation by the state Office of Inspector General found that Barton had been collecting fees privately for some of the sessions, even though he was on the clock and using state resources while conducting the training.

Correctional officials conducted their own probe after Inspector General Stephen Street’s office shared its findings.
Report: Reed Profited on Causeway Hirings

Ex St. Tammany DA Accused of Further Wrongdoing by IG

(New Orleans Advocate, April 10, 2017)

Lake Pontchartrain Causeway lawyers had to pay their own "toll" to get work from the commission that governs the 24-mile bridge: to powerful north shore District Attorney Walter Reed who, according to a state inspector general's report, wielded his influence to get them the gig but expected a generous cut of their earnings in return.

At the height of his career, Reed, who last week was sentenced to 48 months in prison for public corruption, was the highest-paid district attorney in the state, earning more than $200,000 a year. But he, nonetheless, used his office and influence to reel in a variety of side deals.

According to the Office of Inspector General report issued Monday, one of those gigs — acting as a gatekeeper of sorts for the Causeway’s legal work — brought Reed more than $52,000 in legal fees that he did no work to earn.

The new report by Inspector General Stephen Street does not make clear how Reed came to control that work as district attorney for the 22nd Judicial District, but it is clear that he did.

In return for Reed's help, the Becknell Law Firm gave him a share of its proceeds from the Causeway work — even though no Causeway records could be found to show that Reed did any work for the commission, and General Manager Carlton Dufrechou said he knew of none.

"Becknell admitted to the Causeway Commission general manager that he paid Reed a percent of his Causeway Commission billings despite the fact that Reed did no work for the Causeway Commission," the report says.

In return for Reed's help, the Becknell Law Firm gave him a share of its proceeds from the Causeway work — even though no Causeway records could be found to show that Reed did any work for the commission, and General Manager Carlton Dufrechou said he knew of none.

Records show Reed was paid more than $52,000 by J. William Becknell II between June 2008 and May 2014. He received 30 percent of the law firm's fees from the commission for the first three years and 20 percent over the following two.

"Becknell admitted to the Causeway Commission general manager that he paid Reed a percent of his Causeway Commission billings despite the fact that Reed did no work for the Causeway Commission," the report says.
INSPECTOR GENERAL

MEDIA/TEACHING/SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

One of the statutory duties of the Inspector General is to engage in prevention activities, which includes providing education and training. (La. R.S. 49:220.24(I)). The Inspector General regularly speaks at conferences and civic group meetings, and also serves as an instructor for the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C), the Inspector General Criminal Investigator Academy (IGCIA), the Louisiana District Attorneys Association (LDAA) and the Association of Inspectors General (AIG), among others. These organizations cover most, if not all travel expenses for faculty, allowing the Inspector General to minimize costs for taxpayers. The Inspector General also makes media appearances to discuss newsworthy OIG issues, and regularly testifies before the Louisiana Legislature.

January 30, 2017 – Baton Rouge Press Club
January 31, 2017 – Bill Profita Talk 107.3 Radio Interview
April 5, 2017 – Remote Testimony in Nevada Legislature on proposed IG Bill
April 18, 2017 – New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission Board Meeting – New Orleans, Louisiana
April 28, 2017 – Virginia State OIG All Staff Training – Richmond, Virginia
May 9, 2017 – Bill Profita Talk 107.3 Radio Interview

May 9, 2017 – Better Business Bureau Luncheon – Baton Rouge, Louisiana

May 31, 2017 – Bill Profita Talk 107.3 Interview

June 1, 2017 – Louisiana District Attorneys Association (LDAA) Basic Prosecutor School – Professionalism


August 14-16, 2017 – Association of Inspectors General (AIG) Institutes, New York City, New York

October 25, 2017 – Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) – New Orleans, Louisiana

November 13-17, 2017 – Association of Inspectors General (AIG) Fall Conference and Board Meeting – Austin, Texas

November 30, 2017 – Bill Profita Talk 107.3 Interview

December 15, 2017 – City of New Orleans Inspector General All Staff Training – New Orleans, Louisiana
AIG PRESIDENT’S MESSAGES

Inspector General Street is in his second term as President of the national Association of Inspectors General. His duties as President include preparing messages to the membership, which includes over 1,600 people from the Inspector General, Law Enforcement and Oversight communities of the United States, U.S. territories and several foreign countries. Below are highlights from a few of those messages:

JANUARY 2018

“Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.”

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

January 2018 marks my third anniversary as President of the Association of Inspectors General, and the 10 year anniversary of my being appointed Louisiana State Inspector General. It has been and continues to be a true honor to serve in both capacities. It has been an amazing ride with peaks and valleys. Like all Inspectors General, I have had to fight some hard battles. As I have said many times, the Inspector General business is not for the faint of heart. It requires a thick skin and a steely resolve. It often requires us to re-fight the same battles year after year, which can be exhausting and, frankly, discouraging.

We as Inspectors General do the job because it is the right thing to do -- because it is our duty. But in doing that duty, we must avoid the great peril of succumbing to “battle fatigue.”

As we welcome another new year, I want to encourage everyone to consider each new day as a new opportunity, a chance to do something great. Remember that you are fighting the good fight, and you need strength and endurance for the long haul. Reach out to friends in the IG community who know what you are going through. They are the best source of encouragement. And press on, no matter what.
“This is the lesson: never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense.

(Winston Churchill)

On December 16, 2016, President Obama signed the Inspector General Empowerment Act into law. With the passage of this legislation, federal inspectors general will now be guaranteed access to information necessary to do their jobs. This was a landmark victory for the entire community of Inspectors General. There were many developments that led to this legislation being pursued, not the least of which was the position taken by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) that the words “all records” in Section 6(a) of the Inspector General Act of 1978, did not actually mean “all records”; and therefore, the DOJ Inspector General would not be allowed access to required information. It was the consensus of the IG community that this interpretation defied common sense and clearly undermined the original intent of the Inspector General Act of 1978.

Some of you may recall that in November of 2015, I signed a letter on behalf of AIG to the Chairmen and ranking members of the oversight committees expressing our grave concern over the OLC opinion, and desire that it be addressed legislatively. Those of you who attended our Boston training conference last November heard from Jason Foster, Investigative Counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee, who kept us informed about the progress of the IG Empowerment Act. This victory was accomplished through the efforts of many, including the Association’s Government Affairs and Executive Committees. I am very proud of the IG Community for standing together on such an important issue.

NOVEMBER 2016

“We are the flank.”

(Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, 20th Maine Regiment, at the Battle of Gettysburg)

On July 2, 1863, Colonel Joshua Chamberlain uttered these words as he and his men prepared to defend Little Round Top at Gettysburg. Colonel Chamberlain had his men look to their left. There was no one there. They were the flank! They were outnumbered and had limited resources, but could not withdraw under any condition. Withdraw, and the flank of the entire Union Army would collapse. Withdraw, and the course of American history might have been very different. Those of you who are history buffs know what happened: Chamberlain and his 20th Maine defended that ground against repeated charges of what should have been an overwhelming Confederate force. Finally, when they had no more ammunition for their muskets, Chamberlain’s men fixed bayonets and charged down the hill themselves. Against all odds, they held their ground, and won a victory that probably changed the course of the American Civil War.

I was recently reminded that we in the IG community are the flank. No matter the circumstances or which way the political winds might blow, IGs are the constant and the...
flank. We must press on with determination and integrity. Let’s face it, IGs that do their jobs well are going to be under varying degrees of duress. Those of you who have followed the saga of the Louisiana OIG know that we are under fairly constant attack down here. But in my mind, these attacks are the greatest indicator of our effectiveness.

JULY 2016

“Plus ca change, Plus c’est la meme chose” (“The more things change, the more they stay the same”) -- Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr

In May of 2012, the following headlines appeared in Louisiana media outlets:

- Louisiana Legislator Calls OIG Waste
- Inspector General Hopes Senate Will Keep Office From Closing
- Inspector General’s Office Too Valuable To Eliminate
- Battle Over Funding for State IG Rife With Coincidence
- Inspector General Funding Restored

Four years later, the following headlines appeared in Louisiana media outlets:

- Louisiana House Committee Votes to Close Down State Inspector General
- Lawmakers Propose Eliminating OIG
- Louisiana Inspector General Questions Lawmakers Motives
- Inspector General Fights to Keep Office Open
- OIG Funding Restored in Next Year’s Budget

For those of you who may be interested, you can google the Louisiana Inspector General’s Office and find these and many more stories about the fight to save our office. Some might call Louisiana politicians trying to shut down a highly effective public corruption agency the classic “Man Bites Dog” story. I think it is enough to say: “Plus ca change, Plus c’est la meme chose.”

The 2016 OIG funding fight in Louisiana was simply the latest reminder of what comes with the territory in the Inspector General business. If you do the job aggressively – and we have -- folks will come after you. It’s absolutely guaranteed. It was also a great reminder that the public is overwhelmingly supportive of Inspectors General, and we should never forget this.
APPENDICES

Statutory References

The following are Louisiana Revised Statutes sections relating to the powers and duties of the Louisiana Office of Inspector General:

Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 49

§ 220.21. Office of the state inspector general; policy and purpose

A. The prevention and detection of waste, inefficiencies, mismanagement, misconduct, abuse, fraud, and corruption in all departments, offices, agencies, boards, commissions, task forces, authorities, and divisions of the executive branch of state government as specifically provided in Title 36 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, all hereinafter referred to in this Part collectively as “covered agencies” and individually as “covered agency”, is an important responsibility of the state.

B. In view of the responsibility of the state, it is the purpose of this Part to establish an independent office of the state inspector general in the office of the governor to examine and investigate the management and affairs of covered agencies.

§ 220.22. Office of the state inspector general; creation; domicile; funding

A. The office of the state inspector general, referred to in this Part as the “office”, is created and shall be a body corporate with the power to sue and be sued.

B. The domicile of the office shall be in Baton Rouge.

C. The legislature shall make adequate appropriations to the office to enable it to implement this Part efficiently and effectively.

D. The office is authorized to employ its own legal counsel, and also may obtain such additional legal representation as the office deems necessary from the attorney general or his designee.

§ 220.23. State inspector general; appointment; term; vacancy; compensation; removal

A. (1) There shall be a state inspector general, hereinafter referred to as the “inspector general”, who shall be appointed by the governor with the consent of the Senate. No person appointed inspector general shall hold or be a candidate for any elective office, including elective political party office, or any other public office or political party office. No person shall be appointed inspector general who has held any elective office or political party office within two years immediately preceding his
appointment. No former inspector general shall be eligible to qualify as a candidate for any elective office, including elective political party office, nor shall he assume any elective office or political party office within four years after the termination of his service as inspector general.

(2) If a vacancy exists in the office of the state inspector general for more than six months, then the holder of the next highest level administrative position in the office shall become the inspector general, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

(3) Not later than one year from the date of appointment, if not already certified, the inspector general shall obtain certification as a Certified Inspector General from the Association of Inspectors General.

B. The inspector general shall serve a six-year term.

C. The salary of the inspector general shall be fixed by the governor, which amount shall not exceed the amount approved for such position by the legislature while in session. The salary of the inspector general may not be reduced by the governor or the legislature during his term of office.

D. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection B of this Section, the inspector general may be removed by the governor provided such removal is approved by a majority vote of each house of the legislature.

(2) In order to obtain the consent of a majority of the elected members of each house of the legislature, the clerk of the House of Representatives and the secretary of the Senate shall prepare and transmit a ballot to each member of the legislature by certified mail with return receipt requested, unless it is determined that the legislature will be in session in time for the ballots to be distributed to them and returned by them during the session. The ballot shall be uniform and include pertinent information as the clerk and secretary shall determine.

§ 220.24. Authority; duties; powers; standards; functions

A. The inspector general shall serve as the executive head and chief administrative officer of the office and shall have responsibility for the policies of the office, except as otherwise provided by this Part, and for the administration, control, and operation of the functions and affairs of the office.

B. The inspector general is authorized to examine and investigate the management and affairs of the covered agencies concerning waste, inefficiencies, mismanagement, misconduct, abuse, fraud, and corruption, and he may conduct all necessary investigations into such areas, including but not limited to:

(1) Misuse of state-owned automobiles, planes, watercraft, and all other movable and immovable property.

(2) Evidence of a pattern of excessive bills on state contracts.

(3) Unauthorized use of leave.

(4) Mismanagement of governmental operations.
(5) Waste or abuse of things of value belonging to or used by the covered agencies.

(6) Construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities.

C. (1) The inspector general shall help prevent waste, inefficiency, mismanagement, misconduct, abuse, fraud, and corruption in covered agencies by periodically reviewing policies and procedures and monitoring operations and making recommendations for improvement.

(2) The inspector general shall receive complaints of waste, inefficiency, mismanagement, misconduct, abuse, fraud, or corruption in covered agencies and determine whether they warrant investigation by the inspector general or by appropriate federal, state, or local agencies or may conduct such investigations upon his own initiative. In order to accomplish this, the office of the inspector general shall maintain a toll-free fraud hotline number and web site for anonymous reporting.

(3) The inspector general shall investigate complaints of waste, inefficiencies, mismanagement, misconduct, abuse, fraud, and corruption and, when appropriate, recommend whether disciplinary action or further investigation by appropriate federal, state, or local agencies is warranted and take further action as appropriate.

(4) The inspector general shall report complaints of fraud, abuse, or corruption to such federal, state, or local agencies when there is evidence of what may be criminal activity and when otherwise appropriate and shall otherwise cooperate with such agencies in any further action.

(5) The inspector general shall make reports of his findings to the governor. Such reports shall be subject to the provisions of R.S. 44:1 et seq.

(6) The inspector general shall submit an annual report to the governor and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget at the end of each fiscal year that describes the accomplishments and contributions made by the office toward achieving the mission of helping to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse in Louisiana government. Upon completion, as indicated by signature of the inspector general, all final reports of the inspector general immediately shall be filed with the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and shall include the response of the agency, if any. All such reports shall be provided to the staff of the governor's office and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget upon request.

D. The inspector general shall provide for an opportunity for agency response prior to the release of a report unless the inspector general, in conjunction with a United States attorney, the state attorney general, district attorneys, or other prosecutorial agencies, determines that supplying the affected person or entity with such report will jeopardize a pending or potential criminal investigation.

E. All officers and employees of covered agencies shall extend full cooperation and all reasonable assistance to the inspector general.

F. (1) In the performance of his duties, the inspector general and any member of his staff designated by him may seek and obtain sworn testimony from any person using the same procedure as is provided for taking depositions provided for in Article 1443 in the Code of Civil Procedure.
(2) In the performance of his duties, the inspector general or any member of his staff designated by him may compel the attendance of witnesses to be deposed under oath or the production of public and private records by issuing a subpoena. However, such a subpoena or subpoena duces tecum shall be issued only upon approval of a judge of the district court of the parish in which the office of inspector general is domiciled upon application in writing by the inspector general. The judge shall issue a written decision within seventy-two hours after receipt of such application. Any subpoena for production of private records shall be in compliance with all applicable constitutionally established rights and processes. The subpoena may be served by certified mail, return receipt requested, at the addressee’s residence or business address, or by representatives appointed by the inspector general, or may be directed for service to the office of the state police. If a person refuses to obey a subpoena issued by the inspector general, upon application by the inspector general, the district court of the parish in which the office of inspector general is domiciled may issue an order to the person requiring the person to appear before the court to show cause why an order shall not be issued ordering such person to obey the subpoena, and the person may be adjudged in contempt of court.

(3) The inspector general shall have access to all records, information, data, reports, plans, projections, matters, contracts, memoranda, correspondence, and any other materials of a covered agency and shall be deemed to be an authorized representative and agent of each covered agency for the purposes of:

(a) Examining and investigating the records of all contractors, subcontractors, grantees, or subgrantees of covered agencies, which records relate to contracts, subcontracts, grants, or subgrants with a covered agency.

(b) Obtaining access to any records of a covered agency in the possession of a third party, including but not limited to bank account records.

G. The inspector general and employees of the inspector general shall carry identifying cards.

H. The office of the state inspector general shall adhere to professional standards for initiating and conducting audits, investigations, inspections, and reviews such as those promulgated by the Association of Inspectors General. The office shall develop an operations manual that contains such standards and shall make it available to the public.

I. The inspector general shall engage in prevention activities, including but not limited to reviewing legislation, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and transactions; providing for training and education; and making recommendations to the governor and the legislature to strengthen public integrity laws.

J. The office of the state inspector general is hereby designated as a law enforcement agency and conferred all investigative powers and privileges appurtenant to a law enforcement agency under state law as necessary and in furtherance of the authority, duties, powers, and functions set forth in this Part. These powers and privileges shall not include arrest powers but shall include access to computer systems, information maintained for the use of law enforcement personnel, and any
information contained in the criminal history record and identification file of the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information.

K. Upon credible information of corruption or fraud, the office of the state inspector general shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Subsequent to notifying the appropriate law enforcement agency, the inspector general may assist the law enforcement agency in conducting the investigation. Upon detecting a violation of one of the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics, the office of the state inspector general may file a complaint with the Board of Ethics.

L. The office of the state inspector general may conduct joint investigations and projects with other oversight or law enforcement agencies.

M. The inspector general shall do all things necessary to carry out the functions set forth in this Part.

§ 220.25. Confidentiality of certain records

Except for the reports of investigations released as provided in R.S. 49:220.24(C)(6), the records prepared or obtained by the inspector general in connection with investigations conducted by the inspector general shall be deemed confidential and protected from disclosure. No privilege established by law shall be deemed waived on any record obtained by the inspector general in connection with the performance of the duties established in this Part. Any record or information obtained by the inspector general which is confidential pursuant to any other provision of law shall remain confidential, and it shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than two thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both, for the inspector general or any of his employees, or any other public official, corporation, or individual, to make public any such information or record. Nothing herein shall be interpreted to prevent public access to public records during the course of an inspector general investigation. The custodian of any public record shall provide that record to any person having the right to examine public records. If the only copy of the public record is in the hands of the inspector general, the custodian of that record shall so certify and the requestor may examine and copy the record at the office of the inspector general.
CONTACT INFORMATION

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A copy of this report has been made available for public inspection at the Office of State Inspector General and is posted on the Office of State Inspector General’s website at www.oig.louisiana.gov. If you need any assistance relative to this report, please contact Stephen B. Street, Jr., State Inspector General at (225) 342-4262.

REPORT FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE

To report alleged fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement relative to state programs or operations, use one of the following methods:

- Complete complaint form on web site at www.oig.louisiana.gov
- Write to Office of State Inspector General, P. O. Box 94095, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095
- Call the Office of State Inspector General at (225) 342-4262

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