

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL



Cathy L. Helm Inspector General

Cathy Helm was appointed the Inspector General for the Smithsonian Institution on July 14, 2014. At the Smithsonian, she reports directly to the Smithsonian Board of Regents and Congress.

As the Inspector General, she oversees an office of special agents, auditors, an attorney, and other staff. The office is responsible for conducting audits and investigations relating to Smithsonian programs and operations; keeping the Board of Regents and Congress informed about problems and deficiencies found; promoting efficiency and effectiveness within the Smithsonian; and preventing and detecting cases of fraud, waste and abuse. In addition, she serves as the Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee for the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), an organization comprised of 73 federal Inspectors General. She also serves as the chair of the Small/Unique OIG Group, a group of inspectors general who meet quarterly and exchange ideas and practices.

Prior to joining the Smithsonian, Ms. Helm worked at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) where she served in various roles in Washington, D.C., and Frankfurt, Germany. In her last position as deputy inspector general, she helped lead the audit and investigative programs as well as the office's transition from an administrative to a statutory OIG. During her GAO career, she managed multi-disciplinary audit teams that evaluated a variety of government programs, including agriculture, defense, energy, environmental protection, federal land management, procurement, and transportation.

Ms. Helm graduated from George Washington University with a master's in public administration and earned her bachelor's degree with magna cum laude honors at Western Kentucky University. Ms. Helm has received numerous awards throughout her career, including GAO's Meritorious Service Award.