



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY
NEWS RELEASE

Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community's Statement on the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's Letter to the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel

(October 25, 2019) On October 22, 2019, the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) sent a letter on behalf of 67 Inspectors General to the Honorable Steven A. Engel, Assistant Attorney General of the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel (OLC). [In its letter](#), CIGIE expresses support for the position taken by the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community (ICIG), as set forth in the [ICIG's earlier letter to OLC](#), dated September 17, 2019. In its letter of support, CIGIE stated, “[W]e agree with the ICIG that the [OLC opinion](#) creates a chilling effect on effective oversight and is wrong as a matter of law and policy. We urge you to reconsider the conclusions of the OLC opinion and withdraw or modify it.” CIGIE also concluded that: “OLC substituted its judgment and reversed a determination the statute specifically entrusted to the ICIG because of its independence, objectivity, and expertise to credibly assess the information. In our view, the OLC’s opinion undermines the independence of the ICIG and wrongly interprets the respective roles and responsibilities of IGs and agency heads under the ICWPA [Intelligence Community Whistleblower Protection Act].”

The Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community appreciates the commitment of the Inspectors General throughout the nation, Congressional Members and staff, and other stakeholders who work tirelessly to ensure that individuals in the federal government who disclose allegations of wrongdoing in good faith and in an authorized manner are protected from reprisal or the threat of reprisal.

The Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 established the Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. The ICIG’s mission is to provide independent and objective oversight of the programs and activities within the responsibility and authority of the Director of National Intelligence, to initiate and conduct independent audits, inspections, investigations, and reviews, and to lead and coordinate the efforts of the Intelligence Community Inspectors General Forum. The ICIG’s goal is to have a positive and enduring impact throughout the Intelligence Community, to lead and coordinate the efforts of an integrated Intelligence Community Inspectors General Forum, and to enhance the ability of the United States Intelligence Community to meet national security needs while respecting our nation’s laws and reflecting its values. The Forum consists of the twelve statutory and administrative Inspectors General having oversight responsibility for an element of the Intelligence Community. The Chair of the Forum is the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community.

For more information about the ICIG, please contact IC_IG_PAO@dni.gov or visit the ICIG's websites:
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For career opportunities with the ICIG, please visit:
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To report allegations of waste, fraud, or abuse, please contact the ICIG:
Secure: ICIG Hotline 933-2800 | Unclassified: ICIG Hotline 855-731-3260
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