

# For Your Inspection



“Mission First, People Always, Integrity Forever”  
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Office Of Inspector General, Corporation For National And Community Service

## OIG Profile

### Shirleen Chittams Investigative Assistant

The Office of Inspector General's longest-serving employee, Shirleen Chittams's



career predates the establishment of the Corporation. She joined the OIG of what was then called ACTION as an Administrative Assistant in October 1983 and was promoted to Investigative Assistant in July 2005.

Chittams supports the Investigative Section's agents by helping to ensure that cases are legally sufficient for prosecution, and assisting investigators in documentation review, and case preparation and finalization. She also maintains the Fraud Hotline, raw data and Fraud Awareness Briefing files.

Prior to joining the OIG, she worked for the Department of Labor in two divisions; Coal Mine Workers' Compensation from 1977 to 1979, and Employment and Trade Adjustment from 1980 to 1982.

Chittams was born and raised in Washington, DC and graduated from Spingarn High School. She and her family live in suburban Maryland.

## IT SECURITY REVIEW FOCUSES ON 'HUMAN FIREWALLS'

The human factor – as in human firewall – has taken on added importance this year as the OIG conducts its annual Federal Information Security and Management Act (FISMA) review of the Corporation's information technology (IT).

FISMA, enacted in 2002, mandates that all Federal Offices of Inspector General conduct annual reviews of agency IT security. The exercise consists of exhaustive document reviews and so-called “penetration tests,” in which reviewers test the stoutness of IT systems' defenses against hackers.

While those elements remain key to evaluating IT security, more emphasis is being placed on the awareness and practices of IT users, including Corporation employees, grantees and contractors.

To that end, and as the result of previous FISMA review findings, the Corporation has significantly upgraded its online security awareness training program with an emphasis on arming users as “human firewalls.” All users are required to successfully complete this training in order to retain their access to Corporation IT systems.

“Physical security hardware on our IT systems is important, but the real danger is with people, both internal and external to the



agency,” said Kenneth Bach, Assistant Inspector General for Support and the OIG's resident expert on FISMA issues. “That's why the annual Corporation training is so important. It details very realistic threats to the Corporation's network.”

The effectiveness of the training program, which also enables employees to better protect their personal home computer systems, is also being evaluated by FISMA

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## AXENFELD NAMED LEADER OF OIG AUDIT SECTION

Veteran Federal auditor Stuart G. Axenfeld has been appointed Assistant Inspector General for Audit in the Office of Inspector General. He succeeds Carol Bates, who was named Inspector



Stuart Axenfeld

General for the Architect of the Capitol.

“I am very fortunate to be able to go from the fine leadership of the Audit Section by Carol Bates to what I'm certain will be equally impressive leadership by Stuart,” said Inspector General

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## AXENFELD NAMED LEADER OF OIG AUDIT SECTION

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Gerald Walpin. "In his years at this office, Stuart has exhibited great knowledge, effective leadership and willingness to invest the hours needed."

Axenfeld, who joined the OIG in 2004 as an Audit Manager, began his Federal career with the Defense Contract Audit Agency, where he led a team of auditors charged with reviewing massive and complex Pentagon contracts. He then served the Office of Inspector General at the Library of Congress where, as Senior Auditor, he led a team that audited the Library's programs, contracts and grants.

A native of Washington, DC, Axenfeld received a Bachelor's Degree from the University in Maryland in 1983. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

A self-described soccer maniac and devoted Maryland Terps basketball fan, Axenfeld and his family live in suburban Maryland.



Carol Bates

A true Federal service success story, Bates began her career in 1977 as a clerk typist at the Defense Contract Audit Agency, where she worked her way up to Supervisory Auditor and team leader. She joined the OIG in 2002 as an Audit manager and was named Assistant Inspector General for Audit in 2004.

Bates also served the OIG as Acting Inspector General from late 2004 through mid-2006. She was responsible for marked increases in productivity and efficiency of operations and fostered an effective working relationship with Corporation management.

A Maryland resident and devoted lacrosse fan, Bates received a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University in Maryland in 1976 and an Accounting Degree from the University of Maryland University College in 1978. In 1987 she received a Masters of Business Administration, with an emphasis in Management and Accounting, from Marymount (VA) University. She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Maryland Association of CPAs.

## GRANTEE AGREES TO REPAY \$100,000

A Corporation grantee that misapplied AmeriCorps grant funds to cover its operating costs has agreed to a \$100,000 civil settlement as the result of a joint effort by OIG investigators and auditors.

The management of Earth Conservation Corps (ECC), based in Washington, DC, and its now-defunct Portland, OR, unit, admitted its officials diverted grant funds from their AmeriCorps program and then made fraudulent financial reports to the Corporation in an attempt to cover up the diversion.

As a result of the OIG's findings, ECC's original grant funding was terminated in 2007.

In a civil settlement negotiated by the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Columbia, ECC officials agreed on June 3 to repay the Government \$100,000 over a period of four years and enact organizational reforms designed to safeguard Federal funds.

## IT SECURITY REVIEW FOCUSES ON 'HUMAN FIREWALLS'

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reviewers. They are conducting social engineering testing to determine whether users are following such practices as securing their network usernames and passwords and avoiding e-mail-based scams and attacks on our systems.

"FISMA isn't just about IT professionals any more," added Bach. "The best security hardware in the world is only as good as the human firewalls who use our systems every day."