

Analysis of Systems, Controls, and Legal Compliance

Internal Control Program in the Department of Justice

The objective of the Department of Justice's internal control program is to provide reasonable assurance that operations are effective, efficient, and comply with applicable laws and regulations; financial reporting is reliable; and assets are safeguarded against waste, loss, and unauthorized use. The Department identifies issues of concern through a strong network of oversight councils and internal review teams. These include the Department's Senior Assessment Team, the Justice Management Division's Internal Review and Evaluation Office and Quality Control and Compliance Group, and Departmental component internal review teams. The Department also considers reports by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its evaluation of internal control.

The Department of Justice's internal control has significantly improved through the corrective actions implemented by senior management. The Department's commitment to management excellence, accountability, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations shows in our efforts to establish reasonable controls, make sound determinations on corrective actions, and verify and validate the results. This commitment is further evidenced by the many control improvements and significant actions taken by Departmental leadership in response to the President's Management Agenda, OMB initiatives, and OIG recommendations. For example, during FY 2007, Departmental management expanded efforts to implement OMB Circular A-123, Appendix A, *Internal Control over Financial Reporting*. Examples of such efforts include:

- refining the framework and process for assessing internal control over financial reporting,
- implementing a corrective action framework and oversight process to ensure prompt and proper implementation of corrective actions,
- providing direct assistance to components with previously identified material weaknesses, and
- continuing to support and commit resources to Departmental component internal review programs.

Details on additional actions taken by Departmental leadership to build and sustain a strong internal control program are included later in this section.