

1 **Workers' Compensation Full Board Meeting Minutes.**

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4 **Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026  
5 **Location:** 328 State Street, Schenectady, NY  
6 Room 324  
7 Webcast Live

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9  
10 **Time:** 10:00 a.m.

11 **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

12 Freida D. Foster, Chair  
13 Renee L. Delgado, Esq., Vice Chair  
14 Robert Bergin  
15 Peter De Jesús, Jr.  
16 Martin M. Dilan  
17 Steven A. Crain, Esq.  
18 Clarissa M. Rodriguez, Esq. (Appeared remotely per Public  
19 Officers Law § 103-a[2][c])  
20 Pamela Caggianelli  
21 Maria Matos  
22 Gloribelle Perez, Esq.  
23 Gina Sillitti  
24 Samuel G. Williams  
Mark Higgins

25 **SECRETARY TO THE BOARD**

26 Laura Inglis

27 **DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL**

28 Keith Longden, Esq.

29 **ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY**

30 Heather Justice, Esq.

31 **ALSO PRESENT**

32 Lucy Lang, New York State Inspector General  
33 Bryan Richmond, Attorney-in-Charge  
34 Lisa Lingenfelter, Investigator  
Amy McMullen, Investigator  
Jane Seely, Investigator  
Jaclyn Desautel, Senior Investigator  
Jack Wild, Director of External Affairs  
Patrick Cremo, Supervising Law Judge - Judges' Bureau

1                   FREIDA FOSTER:        Good morning and welcome,  
2                   everyone.  Thank you for joining us.  I am  
3                   Freida Foster, Chair for the New York State Workers'  
4                   Compensation Board.  Today's Full Board meeting is  
5                   being webcast live for members of the public.  It is  
6                   also facilitated by an American Sign Language  
7                   interpreter.  Welcome to everyone and thank you for  
8                   joining us.

9                   I now have the honor of calling the 1,053rd  
10                  meeting of the Full Board to order.  Madam Secretary,  
11                  roll call.

12                 LAURA INGLIS:        Vice Chair Delgado.

13                 RENEE DELGADO:        Here.

14                 LAURA INGLIS:        Board Member Higgins.

15                 MARK HIGGINS:        Here.

16                 LAURA INGLIS:        Board Member Williams.

17                 SAMUEL WILLIAMS:       Here.

18                 LAURA INGLIS:        Board Member Crain.

19                 STEVEN CRAIN:        Here.

20                 LAURA INGLIS:        Board Member Rodriquez.

21                 CLARISSA RODRIGUEZ:       Here.

22                 LAURA INGLIS:        Board Member Caggianelli.

23                 PAMELA CAGGIANELLI:       Here.

24                 LAURA INGLIS:        Board Member Dilan.

1 MARTIN DILAN: Here.

2 LAURA INGLIS: Board Member Perez.

3 GLORIBELLE PEREZ: Here.

4 LAURA INGLIS: Board Member Bergin.

5 ROBERT BERGIN: Here.

6 LAURA INGLIS: Board Member DeJesus.

7 PETER DEJESUS: Here.

8 LAURA INGLIS: Board Member Matos.

9 MARIA MATOS: Here.

10 LAURA INGLIS: And, Board Member Sillitti.

11 GINA SILLITTI: Here.

12 LAURA INGLIS: Madam Chair, Board Member  
13 Rodriquez is joining us remotely today.

14 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you very much. Agenda  
15 Item 1, you've all received a copy of the March 17th,  
16 2026 meeting minutes for review. Are there any  
17 questions or a need for discussion? Okay. Is there a  
18 motion to approve?

19 MARK HIGGINS: Yes, Madam Chair. Board  
20 Member Mark Higgins. I move we approve the motion.

21 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member  
22 Higgins. May I have a second?

23 PAMELA CAGGIANELLI: Madam Chair, this is  
24 Board Member Caggianelli. I second that motion.

1                   FREIDA FOSTER:       Thank you, Board Member  
2                   Caggianelli. Is there any opposition? Hearing none,  
3                   all in favor?

4                   ALL:            Aye.

5                   FREIDA FOSTER:       Any opposed? I am also a  
6                   yes. That motion is passed. Agenda Item 2. Good  
7                   morning. Deputy General Counsel Keith Longden will  
8                   now present the Office of General Counsel's  
9                   Departmental Report for March.

10                  KEITH LONGDEN:       Thank you very much, Chair  
11                  Foster, members of the Full Board. The following is a  
12                  brief summary of the statistics for March of 2026 of  
13                  the three divisions in the Office of General Counsel  
14                  responsible for deciding cases.

15                  So during that month, the Adjudication Division  
16                  held 1 -- 18,186 hearings, resolved 11,788 cases at a  
17                  hearing and issued 347 Reserve Decisions. Also during  
18                  that period, they held 1,609 Pre-Hearing Conferences  
19                  and finalized 1,953 Section 32 Waiver Agreements. Of  
20                  those, 1,273 were finalized at hearing and 680 were  
21                  finalized by desk review.

22                  Next, the Administrative Review Division received  
23                  935 applications for administrative review, processed  
24                  1,074 applications for an end-of-month inventory of

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7,589 cases.

Finally, the Legal Affairs Division received 84 applications for Full Board Review, processed 94 applications for an end-of-month case inventory of 218 cases. And that concludes my report for this month.

FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you very much. Are there any questions or need for discussion? Hearing none, may I have a motion to approve the -- to accept the Office of General Counsel's Departmental Report?

PAMELA CAGGIANELLI: Madam Chair, this is Board Member Caggianelli. I move that we accept the General Counsel's Department Report.

FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member Caggianelli. Is there a second?

MARIA MATOS: Madam Chair, Board Member Matos. I second.

FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member Matos. Is there any opposition? Hearing none, all in favor?

ALL: Aye.

FREIDA FOSTER: Any opposed? Thank you. That motion's passed. Agenda Item 3, Licensed -- License Applications. Good morning, Associate Attorney Heather Justice, who will now present our

1 Licensing Applications.

2 HEATHER JUSTICE: Thank you. Good morning,  
3 Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, Members of the Board.  
4 You have before you the recommendations from the  
5 Assigned Board Panel regarding the Licensing  
6 Applications listed in Part 3 of today's agenda. All  
7 the applications are for three-year renewals.

8 Under Section 24-a, Jay Boardway. Under  
9 Section 50(3-b), Crown Risk Management, LLC,  
10 qualifying officer Mike Kudarauskas. Lincoln Life &  
11 Annuity Company of New York, qualifying officer  
12 Sarah Sheldon. Under Section 50(3-d), AG Risk  
13 Management, Inc., qualifying officer David Goldsmith.  
14 Gallagher Bassett Services, Inc., qualifying officer  
15 David Goldsmith, and Reed Group Management, LLC,  
16 qualifying officer Joshua Protass. I present these  
17 recommendations to the Board for your consideration.

18 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you very much. Are  
19 there any questions or need for a discussion? Hearing  
20 none, may I have an -- a motion to accept the  
21 recommendations of the Panel.

22 STEVEN CRAIN: Board Member Crain, move to  
23 accept the recommendation.

24 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member

1 Crain. May I have a second?

2 ROBERT BERGIN: Board Member Bergin.

3 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member  
4 Bergin. Any opposition? Hearing none, all in favor?

5 ALL: Aye.

6 FREIDA FOSTER: Any opposed? I'm also a  
7 yes. That motion pass. Agenda Item 4, Deputy Counsel  
8 will now present the recommendations concerning  
9 decisions for the Appellate.

10 KEITH LONGDEN: Thank you very much, Chair  
11 Foster. On this month's agenda there are nine  
12 decisions of the Appellate Division, Third Department.  
13 In Items 4A through 4I of your agenda, it's the  
14 recommendation of the Office of General Counsel that  
15 all those decisions be adopted as the decision of the  
16 Board.

17 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you very much. Do we  
18 have a motion to accept the recommendations of the  
19 Office of General Counsel?

20 GLORIBELLE PEREZ: So moved, Board Member  
21 Perez.

22 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member  
23 Perez. May I have a second?

24 SAMUEL WILLIAMS: Board member Williams. I

1 second that motion.

2 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member  
3 Williams. Is there any opposition? Hearing none, all  
4 in favor?

5 ALL: Aye.

6 FREIDA FOSTER: Any opposed? I'm also a  
7 yes. That motion has passed. There are no -- for  
8 Agenda Item 5, there are no Mandatories for us to  
9 consider. We are moving to Agenda Item 6 where I turn  
10 this portion over to Vice Chair Delgado. Good  
11 morning.

12 RENEE DELGADO: Good morning. Thank you,  
13 Madam Chair. For the cases listed in Item 6 on your  
14 agenda, it has been recommended that Full Board Review  
15 be granted. Those cases are 6A, G3670542, Matter of  
16 Speedway Construction Corporation; 6B, 00305725,  
17 Matter of Tectonic Engineering Consultant; 6C,  
18 60210374, Matter of L & JG Stickley, Inc.; 6D,  
19 G3677398, Matter of El Artesano Corporation; 6E,  
20 G3155262, Matter of The 1987 Group, LLC. I move to  
21 refer the cases back to their respective Panels for  
22 further consideration.

23 FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Vice Chair  
24 Delgado. Is there a second?

1                   MARTIN DILAN:        I move to second. Board  
2 Member Dilan.

3                   FREIDA FOSTER:        Thank you, Board Member  
4 Dilan. Does anyone need to be recused from any of  
5 these cases? All right. All those in favor?

6                   ALL:        Aye.

7                   FREIDA FOSTER:        Any opposed? I am also a  
8 yes. That motion is passed. Agenda Item 7, is there  
9 any other business? All right.

10                   Agenda Item 8, we have guest speakers. We are  
11 now pleased to introduce our guest speakers, the  
12 New York State Inspector General, Lucy Lang, and  
13 Attorney-in-Charge for Workers' Compensation fraud,  
14 Bryan Richmond. Welcome back.

15                   New York State Inspector General Lucy Lang also  
16 serves as New York's Welfare Inspector General and  
17 Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General. She is  
18 an attorney, educator and lifelong New Yorker.

19                   Lucy Lang brings her longstanding commitment to  
20 justice to overseeing the Offices of Investigations  
21 and Corruption, Fraud and Misconduct in State  
22 government, as well as a deep -- as deep experience  
23 designing and implementing practices that promote  
24 institutional integrity, transparency and

1 accountability and increased public understanding and  
2 engagement in government oversight.

3 Prior to her appointment, Lang served as Director  
4 of the Institute for Innovation and Prosecution, a  
5 national criminal justice organization, and an  
6 assistant district attorney in Manhattan where she  
7 investigated and prosecuted violent crimes.

8 Inspector General Lang is a presidential  
9 leadership scholar and a graduate of Swarthmore  
10 College, Columbia Law School and the Executive Public  
11 Leaders Program at Blavatnik School of Government at  
12 Oxford.

13 Also joining us today is Attorney-in-Charge Bryan  
14 Richmond. Bryan Richmond serves as Attorney-in-Charge  
15 for Workers' Compensation fraud at the Offices of the  
16 New York State Inspector General. In this role he  
17 leads efforts to detect, investigate and prevent  
18 corruption, fraud and abuse in New York State's  
19 Workers' Compensation system.

20 Mr. Richmond directs and supervises Workers'  
21 Compensation fraud investigations statewide and  
22 assists in criminal prosecution of fraud-related  
23 offenses. He also plays a key role in interagency  
24 anti-fraud initiatives coordinating with State

1 agencies and prosecutors on both independent and  
2 direct investigations.

3 Additionally, we have Mr. Jack Wild as well who  
4 is the Director of External Affairs, and I think that  
5 description is pretty clear of what he does. Welcome  
6 to everyone and good to see you.

7 LUCY LANG: Thank you so much. Good  
8 morning, everyone.

9 FREIDA FOSTER: Good morning.

10 LUCY LANG: Thank you, Madam Chair, Madam  
11 Vice Chair and esteemed Members of the Board. I hope  
12 that you will humor me with a couple of minutes of  
13 history in this 250th year.

14 The Continental Congress issued a resolution  
15 after the Battle of Valley Forge describing Inspector  
16 General Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustine  
17 Louis Freiherr von Steuben as that illustrious  
18 stranger who has so generously undertaken to aide us  
19 in our struggle for liberty. Illustrious stranger,  
20 used to refer to this underrecognized founding father,  
21 is an apt term for the often unknown role of  
22 Inspectors General, sometimes called the most  
23 important public servants you've never heard of.

24 As New York State IG at a time when public trust

1 in government is at historic lows and indeed the  
2 foundation of our democracy is under attack, I see  
3 this 250th anniversary of the signing of the  
4 Declaration of Independence as a call to action to  
5 bring the public into the work we all share in public  
6 integrity. And the public has to include overlooked  
7 members of our communities and our country, as you all  
8 know so well.

9 IG von Steuben, a Prussian military leader who  
10 George Washington appointed IG to train, inspect and  
11 develop standards for the Continental Army, is  
12 credited with turning a ragtag force into a  
13 professional military in large part by curtailing the  
14 prevalent graft and waste that was undermining the war  
15 effort. He went on to codify these standards in the  
16 Blue Book, which remains a foundational document of  
17 American military operations.

18 Over time -- this is a copy of the Blue Book that  
19 is in the -- the collection of the New York State  
20 Parks Department. Over time in America, Inspectors  
21 General have expanded into the civilian side of  
22 government with more than 74 federal Inspectors  
23 General investigating fraud, waste and abuse in  
24 federal agencies and hundreds more serving as state

1 and local IGs with a range of jurisdictional  
2 authorities, mandates and powers and with various  
3 legal protections to enable their independence,  
4 ranging from staggered terms to good cause for removal  
5 requirements. But as a general matter, all are  
6 non-partisan watchdogs and they're charged with  
7 identifying and preventing fraud and corruption and  
8 are granted the expected investigative flower --  
9 powers.

10 The importance of IGs is reflected in one of the  
11 earliest acknowledgements of oversight in this  
12 country. In his final letter as Commander in Chief of  
13 the Colonial Army, then unaware that he would  
14 ultimately become president, George Washington wrote  
15 IG von Steuben, I wish to make use of this last moment  
16 of my public life to signify in the strongest terms my  
17 entire approbation of your conduct and to express my  
18 sense of the obligations the public is under to you  
19 for your faithful and meritorious service.

20 In the two and a half centuries since, IGs have  
21 grown and changed along with the country but at their  
22 core have always had in common a non-partisan,  
23 independent commitment to a government that operates  
24 with integrity, and it's because the work of

1 government matters so much to people's everyday lives,  
2 which I don't have to tell all of you.

3 It really is because of -- of those New Yorkers  
4 and -- and Americans that IGs have to bring the public  
5 into our work, and by that I mean all members. And  
6 it's so important right now that the public pay  
7 attention and speak out in response to mounting  
8 threats to independent oversight.

9 Turning to -- to my role in our agency, since  
10 taking office, I've worked with my colleagues to  
11 implement major transparency measures, including  
12 committing to publish the letters that include our  
13 post-investigation recommendations, retroactively  
14 publishing decades worth of previously unpublished  
15 materials, developing a social media presence across  
16 platforms, making our annual reports hopefully more  
17 engaging, launching an open data portal, enumerating  
18 the sources and resolutions of allegations reviews, so  
19 many of which come from you all, and I have hired  
20 directors of training and external affairs to help us  
21 communicate with the public about these efforts.

22 It was nearly five years ago when I began these  
23 changes to improve our transparency as an agency, but  
24 I couldn't have imagined then how bleak the landscape

1 would ultimately become for Inspectors General,  
2 because last January consistent with campaign  
3 promises, on the first Friday night of his second  
4 term, President Trump fired 18 Inspectors General in  
5 violation of the 30-day-notice requirement to Congress  
6 and without enumerating the detailed and case specific  
7 rationale for their terminations.

8 Now, this wasn't wholly unprecedented, but the  
9 lack of process and the muted response certainly were,  
10 and that's part of why I want to raise it when I have  
11 the opportunity to talk to people who care about  
12 integrity in government. Indeed, in response to  
13 President Ronald Reagan's 1981 firing of federal IGs,  
14 bipartisan pushback led President Reagan to reinstate  
15 many. And when President Obama removed the AmeriCorp  
16 Inspector General, it drew -- drew widespread  
17 bipartisan concern about its legality.

18 To the contrary, the -- the Friday night mass  
19 purge in 2025 was clearly designed to specifically  
20 undermine Democratic guardrails that IGs and all of us  
21 are committed to upholding. And that point was hit  
22 home further just three weeks later after the  
23 President paused foreign assistance programs and  
24 stripped resources from the US Agency for

1 International Development, and the USAID did precisely  
2 what the job of an IG requires; he published a report  
3 disclosing the results of an independent analysis of  
4 the cost of those cuts, including that they left aide  
5 programs vulnerable to terrorism, and the president  
6 then retaliated by immediately firing the USAID IG.

7 So these illegal IG firings, the attention to  
8 which waned with the news cycle, should not have come  
9 as a surprise because they were previewed by the  
10 campaign. And it's important to note that federal IGs  
11 are among the most important guardians of the federal  
12 fiscal system. They saved taxpayers approximately  
13 94 billion dollars in 2024 alone. And that's a 20 --  
14 a \$26 return on every dollar spent.

15 So perhaps emboldened by a climate that permits  
16 the politicization of these intentionally nonpartisan  
17 institutions, state and local IGs have not been immune  
18 from this assault on their independence. The first  
19 City of Atlanta IG resigned after being stripped of  
20 investigative authority by the very city council whose  
21 experiences with corruption led that city council to  
22 establish the IGs office.

23 In Baltimore, the inspector general has faced  
24 ongoing disputes and legal challenges related to her

1 oversight authority, including access to records and  
2 subpoena power. And of course in New York City the  
3 Justice Department dismissed corruption charges  
4 against the previous mayor that resulted from an  
5 extensive investigation by our New York City  
6 counterpart, the Department of Investigation.

7 But in addition to the financial implications of  
8 firing and undermining watchdogs and in addition to  
9 the catastrophic impact on -- on public confidence in  
10 government, there are huge human costs to these  
11 threats to IG independence, because part of IG's jobs  
12 is to make government work better for those who need  
13 it most and to protect vital lifelines, like the  
14 Workers' Compensation system. And that's why I'm so  
15 grateful to all of you for your partnership in keeping  
16 that system honest for New Yorkers.

17 At the Offices of the State Inspector General,  
18 we're celebrating our 40th year as a State entity; 30  
19 years of the Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector  
20 General and ten years since WCFIG became part of the  
21 New York State Inspector General's Office. So we're  
22 marking those milestones not just by looking back, but  
23 by opening our doors wider than ever before by  
24 bringing the public into public integrity.

1           So throughout this anniversary year, we're  
2           doubling down on our outreach efforts, including  
3           speaking with students across the state, engaging with  
4           civic organizations. And through this outreach, we're  
5           really seeking to meet New Yorkers where they are to  
6           show them how government works, why it matters and how  
7           everyone plays a role, because accountability doesn't  
8           happen in a vacuum. It depends on an informed and  
9           engaged public that knows how to recognize misconduct  
10          and where to report it. And I know I don't have to  
11          tell you all how important this work is to  
12          Workers' Compensation.

13          As you'll hear more about today, fraud in the  
14          system diverts resources from those who are  
15          legitimately injured on the job and it erodes trust in  
16          this vital lifeline. By connecting directly with  
17          workers, employers, advocates and community members,  
18          we're not only raising awareness of our role so that  
19          we can bring in more information and investigate as  
20          needed, but we hope that we are supporting you in  
21          strengthening the system itself.

22          And this ties directly into our collective  
23          mission at the Offices of the Inspector General  
24          fostering confidence in New York State government by

1 promoting integrity and transparency through oversight  
2 of covered agencies, their employees and those doing  
3 business with the State.

4 As you heard, our offices are comprised of three  
5 reflecting three appointments that I hold as State IG,  
6 Welfare IG and Workers' Compensation Fraud IG. We are  
7 comprised of investigators, auditors, attorneys,  
8 forensic analysts and other professional staff. And  
9 we have offices throughout the state, including in  
10 Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse, New York City, Rockland  
11 County and Long Island.

12 The Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General  
13 was established by Workers' Compensation Law Section  
14 136, which grants us broad authority to investigate  
15 violations of laws and regulations pertaining to the  
16 Workers' Compensation system.

17 In 2018 to better address a rising volume of  
18 Workers' Compensation fraud complaints, we created the  
19 WCFIG triage team comprised of a multidisciplinary  
20 group of fraud detection specialists from across the  
21 State, including six investigators, a forensic auditor  
22 and a nurse and led by Attorney-in-Charge for Workers'  
23 Compensation fraud matters, Bryan Richmond. The team  
24 conducts preliminary investigations of all complaints

1 to assess their potential for criminal prosecution and  
2 to efficiently allocate IG resources.

3 I'm really pleased to have the outstanding  
4 members of our triage team with us here today,  
5 Jane Seely, our WCFIG managing investigator who's been  
6 with the agency for more than 20 years. And Jane is  
7 exceptionally skilled at overseeing investigations and  
8 identifying fraud. Senior Investigator Jackie  
9 Desautel who brings more than 20 years of experience  
10 investigating insurance fraud, including Workers'  
11 Compensation fraud, to our work, including a decade  
12 with us at OIG and prior service of the Department of  
13 Financial Services.

14 Lisa Lingenfelter, an investigator and registered  
15 nurse of 40 years who applies her unique expertise to  
16 advise on and investigate cases involving complex  
17 medical issues. And Investigator Amy McMullen who has  
18 been with the Offices of the Inspector General for  
19 more than three years. And she brings with her  
20 valuable experience as a claims representative with  
21 the New York State Insurance Fund. It's through there  
22 and their WCFIG colleague's great work that we have so  
23 much to share with you today.

24 As I mentioned, we have taken a proactive

1 approach to public outreach from hiring our first  
2 Director of External Affairs to expanding our presence  
3 at community events and in the media, meeting people  
4 where they are, as I said, and making clear how to  
5 engage with our office and report concerns where they  
6 have suspicion about their colleagues, friends and  
7 neighbors. This work is designed as driving increased  
8 awareness and more complaints to our hotline and  
9 website.

10 We've also made significant investments in  
11 training, including hiring a director of training and  
12 sending Bryan and the WCFIG triage team on the road to  
13 equip external stakeholders, including prosecutors and  
14 insurance professionals, with the tools and knowledge  
15 needed to identify and combat Workers' Compensation  
16 fraud.

17 In 2025 these efforts have collectively resulted  
18 in 1,520 complaints, an increase from 2024. This past  
19 year WCFIG investigations resulted in 22 arrests, a  
20 more than 50 percent increase year over year.

21 Stemming from those 22 arrests, we uncovered 2.9  
22 million dollars in Workers' Compensation fraud, and --  
23 and WCFIG investigations resulted in 1.7 million in  
24 restitution, fines and other court-ordered payments.

1           Now, it is my pleasure to turn this over to the  
2 true expert, the Attorney-in-Charge for Workers'  
3 Compensation fraud, Bryan Richmond, who is going to  
4 walk you through some of our investigations from 2025.  
5 With my gratitude to all of you for having us, I'm  
6 pleased to introduce Bryan Richmond.

7           BRYAN RICHMOND:        Good morning, all.  Now  
8 that --

9           ALL:            Good morning.

10          BRYAN RICHMOND:        -- Lucy has covered the  
11 last 250 years leaving just one year for me.

12          So as many of you know, we -- we kind of divide  
13 our -- I guess, all of our -- our WCFIG investigations  
14 can be categorized into three main areas.  Although  
15 every year there are outliers and every year there are  
16 unique cases, but certainly, the -- the vast majority  
17 fall into one of these three categories.  We have  
18 fraud by medical providers and professionals, fraud by  
19 employers and -- and claimant fraud.

20          In regard to medical provider and professional  
21 fraud, this includes not only physicians and -- and  
22 other medical providers in their offices, but it  
23 includes billing coordinators, billing directors, it  
24 can include attorneys, it can include law judges,

1 other insurance professionals, court reporters. We've  
2 certainly had court reporters involved in our  
3 investigations. Really anyone that are -- are not  
4 claimants or employers that are kind of part of the  
5 Workers' Compensation system.

6 They -- they include often billing, billing  
7 discrepancies, sometimes billing for services that are  
8 not provided, billing under other people's  
9 certifications. We have had cases and currently have  
10 cases where -- where there's a solicitation of people  
11 that actually undergo medical procedures that are  
12 unnecessary, those kinds of -- of -- of  
13 investigations. They are and tend to be longer term  
14 and much more complex investigations often requiring  
15 multiple years.

16 We do have a number of those investigations  
17 ongoing throughout 2025 and currently, and we partner  
18 quite often with the folks at the Workers'  
19 Compensation Board and the Medical Provider Discipline  
20 Unit within the -- the Board to help us both  
21 investigate those cases and to give our -- our  
22 findings to in -- in -- in order to have things that  
23 go noncriminal. For example, cases where maybe a  
24 prosecutor has declined to prosecute, but the -- but

1 the Board can decertify them. Or beyond that we can  
2 recommend their -- their removal of their license to  
3 practice medicine.

4 Fraud by employers, you know, these can run the  
5 gamut from failing to provide Workers' Comp insurance  
6 entirely, fabrication of insurance documentation,  
7 let's see, misrepresentation of the number  
8 classification, you know, some type of premium fraud,  
9 that kind of thing.

10 In 19 -- excuse me, in 2025 we had eight -- eight  
11 arrests involving employer fraud, one of which  
12 involved a Liverpool contractor that was actually  
13 conducting business more in the capital region and  
14 surrounding areas. And this -- this case -- this case  
15 was beyond just Workers' Compensation, as -- as many  
16 of our employer cases are. This case involved a -- a  
17 scam against homeowners where they would solicit  
18 business, maybe start the project, maybe never start  
19 the project, take a significant amount of money away  
20 and then either never show up or never complete the  
21 project. And in addition to that, for more than 25  
22 workers, I believe, they failed to -- no, this was a  
23 little less than 25, but they failed to provide Comp  
24 insurance for their employees.

1           Now, this -- this particular individual was  
2 charged in multiple jurisdictions, Albany, Greene and  
3 Saratoga Counties, took pleas in each of those  
4 jurisdictions to multi-year prison sentences, some of  
5 which ran concurrent, some which ran consecutively.  
6 And in regards to some of the Workers' Compensation  
7 charges, ultimately also paid \$88,000 in restitution.

8           There's also a case downstate in Brooklyn of a  
9 tobacco-based -- or excuse me a -- a Brooklyn-based  
10 tobacco company. They manufactured something called  
11 Grabba, which I did not know what that was, but it's a  
12 tobacco-based ground product that's added to other  
13 things that you smoke. And this -- this is  
14 reminiscent of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, you  
15 know. There -- there was a lot of other issues going  
16 on in that factory in regard to safety of workers,  
17 failure to pay workers over \$310,000.

18           They also had a group of workers of over 25  
19 employees which they didn't have Comp insurance at all  
20 for in these unsafe conditions. They were charged by  
21 the Kings County District Attorney on multiple  
22 felonies, including both the owner and the manager.  
23 This one is still ongoing, although we did want to  
24 mention it because it was such a significant case in

1 2025. So I would say all defendants are presumed  
2 innocent unless or until proven guilty.

3 Fraud by claimants, you know, sometimes this is  
4 the lion's share of our cases, other times employer  
5 cases, other times it's half and half. This year it  
6 was a little bit more claimant heavy because of  
7 something I'll mention later on that our -- our  
8 Department of Corrections cases. But our fraud by  
9 claimants involves the gamut of working while  
10 collecting benefits and lying about your work activity  
11 to lying about your degree of disability or presenting  
12 differently than your degree of disability actually  
13 is.

14 Collecting benefits from deceased claimants.  
15 Every year we have a number of claims from family  
16 members or others that had access to a claimant's  
17 paycheck -- Workers' Compensation benefit checks that  
18 continued to cash those checks surreptitiously after  
19 the death of the -- the claimant, and also falsifying  
20 medical reports.

21 And again, we had 14 arrests in 2025 regarding  
22 that. One such case was a Suffolk County woman who  
23 was depositing her deceased husband's Workers'  
24 Compensation benefit checks into a joint account and

1           then using those access. This one was particularly  
2           egregious because of the longevity. This was more  
3           than three years and 80 checks, and it was also  
4           particularly egregious because of how she did it.

5           Often we get these cases with direct deposit and  
6           maybe that -- you know, maybe if for a few months you  
7           don't know that you're entitled to the money or not.  
8           This is three years, and for those three years and 80  
9           checks the -- the claimant's spouse was actually  
10          signing her deceased spouse's name to each of those  
11          checks. So there was -- it was particularly egregious  
12          in that regard, and also in the amount. It was over  
13          \$109,000 in that three-year period. Ultimately, she  
14          did plead guilty and paid full restitution in February  
15          of this year in that case. That was one of our -- our  
16          successes.

17          So the Department of Corrections and Community  
18          Supervision, DOCCS, New York State DOCCS, we have had  
19          particular concerns over DOCCS for a number of years.  
20          And -- and we had noted for the -- the -- the more  
21          than decade that I've been with the Inspector  
22          General's Office, a number of cases involving DOCCS  
23          employees.

24          In 2023 our office conducted a -- an in-depth

1 proactive study into the DOCCS problem, if you will,  
2 and we published a report that detailed patterns of  
3 egregious Workers' Compensation abuse by DOCCS  
4 security staff and recommending systemic reforms.

5 These -- these abuses often surrounded the -- the  
6 significant benefit that NYSCOPBA gives DOCCS  
7 employees when they go out on Workers' Compensation  
8 benefits, which are quite a bit over and above what  
9 would be entitled to ordinary Workers' Compensation  
10 recipients. And despite our findings and  
11 recommendations, NYSCOPBA did renew the contract in  
12 2023/2024 for multiple years without instituting any  
13 of those changes.

14 And not unexpectedly, the IG continues to receive  
15 numerous complaints involving Workers' Compensation  
16 involving DOCCS and additional proactive measures. So  
17 this year alone six arrests and prosecutions of  
18 claimants stem from these -- these Workers'  
19 Compensation fraud allegations.

20 Going through some of these arrests and  
21 prosecutions, there was a -- a correction officer in  
22 Upstate New York in Washington County from the Green  
23 Haven Facility that alleged an injury. She alleged an  
24 injury, kind of four different descriptions of the

1 accident, but all of which involved the restraint of  
2 an incarcerated individual, falling at times, going  
3 down to her knee, those kind of -- of -- of  
4 allegations, and -- and injuring multiple body parts  
5 in the course of it.

6 But our investigation found, largely through  
7 multiple cameras of surveillance evidence, that she  
8 never fell and she barely had any contact with the  
9 individual, that essentially the entire incident, or  
10 at least the connection to any work injury was  
11 entirely fabricated. This correction officer pled  
12 guilty, was sentenced to multiple years of probation  
13 and since ordered to pay 40,000 restitution, but I  
14 believe she paid most of that up front.

15 Also, we had a -- a employee that alleged an  
16 on-the-job injury and continued to work elsewhere  
17 after the claim. This was a massage therapist, or  
18 excuse me, this was a DOCCS employee who worked as a  
19 massage therapist following the claim. The -- the  
20 interesting part about this is that she began her  
21 massage therapy business -- she found the opportunity  
22 to begin her massage therapy business because she went  
23 out on Comp. She started her business exactly one  
24 week, about nine days after she went out on Comp and

1 she continued to work as a massage therapist for more  
2 than six months thereafter.

3 The first case I ever had with the Inspector  
4 General involved a claimant that wrote in a online  
5 post, and we called it Exhibit A, but she -- she wrote  
6 in an online post, I thank God for my Workers' Comp  
7 injury every day because it gave me the opportunity to  
8 start my business. So this was reminiscent to me --  
9 it was reminiscent to me of that case. In this case  
10 the employee pled guilty in Albany County and paid  
11 \$41,000 plus restitution.

12 We also had a in-depth investigation, frankly a  
13 comprehensive investigation into the ongoing at  
14 Ulster County Correctional Facility. And that was  
15 headed by two of our members of our -- of our triage  
16 team that are with us today.

17 Based upon this -- this comprehensive  
18 investigation in Ulster County, there were four  
19 arrests made in 2025 of -- of claimants. Three out of  
20 four of these cases involved the fabrication of  
21 Workers' Comp -- either the fabrication or alteration  
22 of -- of leave notes by physicians, either -- either  
23 the -- the notes were altered or they were fabricated  
24 entirely. Of those four cases already, the arrests

1 happened in 2025, one of the defendants has pled  
2 guilty. Two of them are -- are very soon going to  
3 have forthcoming pleas.

4 The fourth case had some very interesting facts  
5 that are worth going through. This is a Ulster County  
6 Correctional Facility employee that was on leave  
7 during a workplace injury. And of course while they  
8 were on leave, they had opportunity to make other  
9 funds. And in this regard, they were utilizing not  
10 only Workers' Compensation leave, but CDPAP benefits.  
11 CDPAP is a program through Medicaid. Now, we often  
12 have cases in the Workers' Compensation Fraud  
13 Inspector General where there's fraud perpetrated not  
14 only upon the Workers' Compensation system, but upon  
15 other systems; Social Security, welfare, personal --  
16 all -- all kinds of other, I guess, New York State  
17 benefit programs. And we work closely with some of  
18 those other partners.

19 In this case there was a finding that the  
20 claimant was out with 100 percent disability caring  
21 for his mother-in-law and receiving benefits through  
22 the CDPAP program during the time he was out. What  
23 makes this particularly egregious is even after he  
24 returned to DOCCS from work, he continued to bill the

1 CDPAP program during the same hours that he was  
2 clocked in at DOCCS for a number of months. So  
3 there's a -- a -- a fraud perpetrated both on the --  
4 the Workers' Compensation benefits but also a fraud  
5 perpetrated on the Medicaid benefits.

6 That individual was indicted in March of this  
7 year and arraigned on those charges just -- just last  
8 week on April 16th. So once again, that defendant is  
9 presumed innocent until proven guilty since that case  
10 is ongoing.

11 So in 2026 we have a number of, obviously, cases  
12 that are ongoing. We will continue to partner with  
13 the Workers' Compensation Board and the wonderful work  
14 that -- that a number of individuals do here. I  
15 partner with -- with Keith Longden, members of his  
16 office, Pat Cremo I see here, certainly the -- the --  
17 the medical offices here. And we partner with all of  
18 our other prosecution partners and we have the  
19 support, thankfully, of -- of the Inspector General  
20 to -- to get the word out. So we travel all  
21 throughout the New York -- throughout New York State  
22 with our staff and let them know what we can do to  
23 combat fraud and to get cases to us so we can continue  
24 to do so. So we look forward to the upcoming year.

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Thank you.

ALL: Thank you.

FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you very much. Thank you for all you do in fighting for us and the people of New York State. And happy 40th anniversary. Okay. We've come to the end. May I have a motion to adjourn?

PETER DEJESUS: (No audible response.)

FREIDA FOSTER: Thank you, Board Member Perez.

PETER DEJESUS: DeJesus.

FREIDA FOSTER: DeJesus, sorry.

WHEREUPON THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.