

U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Letter</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Activities of the Office of Inspector General</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Reporting Requirements of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as Amended</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Table 4: Audit, Inspection, and Evaluation Reports with Questioned Costs</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Table 5: Audit, Inspection, and Evaluation Reports with Recommendations That Funds Be Put to Better Use</b>	<b>8</b>

December 4, 2012

The Honorable Commissioners  
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights  
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Suite 1150  
Washington, DC 20425

Subject: *Semiannual Report to Congress*

I am submitting this report in accordance with Section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. The report summarizes the activities of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the semiannual reporting period of fiscal year 2012 beginning with April 1, 2012.

The act requires that you transmit the report to the appropriate congressional committees within 30 days of receipt. Your transmittal should also include any comments you consider appropriate and other statistical tables and reports required by law.

I appreciate management's support and look forward to working with you to help promote economy and efficiency in the operations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Sincerely yours,



Frances Garcia  
Inspector General

*List of Addresses*

The Honorable Martin R. Castro, Chairman

The Honorable Abigail Thernstrom, Vice Chair

The Honorable Roberta Achtenberg

The Honorable Todd Gaziano

The Honorable Gail Heriot

The Honorable Peter Kirsanow

The Honorable David Kladney

The Honorable Michael Yaki

# INTRODUCTION

## THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

The United States Commission on Civil Rights (Commission), created pursuant to the Civil Rights Act of 1957,<sup>1</sup> is responsible for (1) investigating allegations of discrimination because of color, race, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin or deprivation of voting rights, and (2) collecting and studying information; monitoring the enforcement of federal laws and policies; serving as a national clearinghouse for information; and preparing public service announcements and advertising campaigns on issues pertaining to discrimination, denials of equal protection of the laws, or the administration of justice. The Commission may hold hearings and, within specific guidelines, issue subpoenas to obtain certain records and have witnesses appear at hearings. It also maintains state advisory committees and consults with representatives of federal, state, and local governments and private organizations to advance its fact-finding work.

The Commission is required to issue reports on the findings of its investigations to Congress and the President, and to recommend legislative remedies. The Commission also must submit annually to Congress and the President at least one report that monitors federal civil rights enforcement in the United States. In addition, because it lacks enforcement powers that would enable it to apply remedies in individual cases, the Commission refers specific complaints it receives to the appropriate federal, state, or local government agency for action.

## THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Inspector General of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights was created by the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012.<sup>2</sup> The duties, responsibilities, and authorities of the Commission's Inspector General are specified in the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended.<sup>3</sup> The act further designated that the Inspector General of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) holds the position of Inspector General of the Commission, and directed that personnel of GAO's Office of Inspector General (OIG) be utilized to perform the duties of the Inspector General for the Commission. The Inspector General shall conduct audits and investigations relating to programs and operations administered or financed by the Commission and keep the Commissioners and Congress fully and currently informed concerning fraud or other serious problems, abuses, and deficiencies identified.

---

<sup>1</sup>Pub. L. No. 85-315, § 101, 71 Stat. 634 (1957).

<sup>2</sup>Pub. L. No. 112-55, 125 Stat. 552, 628 (Nov. 18, 2011).

<sup>3</sup>Pub. L. No. 95-452, 92 Stat. 1101 (Oct. 12, 1978), codified as amended at 5 U.S.C. App.

# ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

## AUDITS, INSPECTIONS, AND EVALUATIONS

During this reporting period, we initiated an audit to report on the most serious management and performance challenges facing the Commission during fiscal year 2012, and began our independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the Commission's fiscal year 2012 information security program and practices as prescribed by the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002.

## INVESTIGATIONS

As shown in table 1, we received a total of 6 hotline complaints during this 6-month reporting period.

**Table 1: Summary of OIG Hotline Complaint Activities April 1, 2012, through September 30, 2012**

Hotline complaints open at the start of the reporting period	0
New hotline complaints received this reporting period	6
Total hotline complaints	6
Disposition of hotline complaints received	
Complaints closed and converted to investigations	4
Complaints closed and converted to Freedom of Information Act requests	1
Complaints closed insufficient information/no basis	1

Source: OIG.

As shown in table 2, we had 6 open investigations during this reporting period. At the end of the reporting period, 5 investigations remained open.

**Table 2: Summary of OIG Investigations April 1, 2012, through September 30, 2012**

Investigations open at the start of the reporting period	2
New investigations initiated this reporting period	4
Total investigations	6
Disposition of investigations	
Investigations closed insufficient information/no basis	1
Total investigations open at the end of the reporting period	5

Source: OIG.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### **REGULATORY REVIEW**

OIG did not perform reviews of existing legislation and regulations relating to programs and operations of the Commission, and did not identify any proposed legislation or regulations.

### **PEER REVIEW**

Established in November 2011, OIG did not schedule or undergo a peer review. Further, OIG did not participate in any peer review activity for other offices of federal inspectors general.

### **Freedom of Information Act Requests**

The OIG received and processed one Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request during the reporting period. The request was handled in accordance with the Commission's FOIA regulations contained in 45 C.F.R. Part 704 (2011).

# REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978, AS AMENDED

Table 3 cross-references the reporting requirements prescribed by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, to specific pages where they are addressed in this report. References noted as “none” indicate that the requirement was not reported on by OIG during this reporting period.

**Table 3: Index of IG Act Reporting Requirements**

Reference	Reporting requirement	Page
Section 4(a)(2)	Review of legislation and regulations	5
Section 5(a)(1)	Significant problems, abuses, and deficiencies	None
Section 5(a)(2)	Recommendations for corrective action with respect to significant problems, abuses, and deficiencies	None
Section 5(a)(3)	Significant recommendations described in previous semiannual reports for which corrective action has not been completed	None
Section 5(a)(4)	Matters referred to prosecuting authorities and resulting prosecutions and convictions	None
Sections 5(a)(5) and 6(b)(2)	Summary of instances reported to the Commissioners where records were not provided or other information or assistance was refused	None
Section 5(a)(6)	List of reports issued during the reporting period	None
Section 5(a)(7)	Summary of significant reports	None
Section 5(a)(8)	Statistical table—audit, inspection, and evaluation reports with questioned costs	Table 4
Section 5(a)(9)	Statistical table—audit, inspection, and evaluation reports with recommendations that funds be put to better use	Table 5
Section 5(a)(10)	Summary of audit reports issued before the commencement of the reporting period for which no management decision has been made	None
Section 5(a)(11)	Significant revised management decisions made during the reporting period	None
Section 5(a)(12)	Significant revised management decisions with which the Inspector General is in disagreement	None
Section 5(a)(13)	Instances of unresolved Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 noncompliance	None
Section 5(a)(14)(A)	Peer review conducted on OIG during the reporting period	5
Section 5(a)(14)(B)	Statement of peer review conducted on OIG during a prior reporting period	5
Section 5(a)(15)	Outstanding recommendations from a peer review on OIG	5
Section 5(a)(16)	Peer reviews conducted by OIG on another Office of Inspector General	5
Section 5(d)	Serious or flagrant problems, abuses, or deficiencies reported to the Commissioners	None

Source: OIG.



---

**Table 4: Audit, Inspection, and Evaluation Reports with Questioned Costs**

<b>Reporting requirements</b>	<b>Number of reports</b>	<b>Number of recommendations</b>	<b>Questioned costs</b>	<b>Unsupported costs</b>
For which no management decision has been made by the commencement of the reporting period	0	0	0	0
Which were issued during the reporting period	0	0	0	0
For which a management decision was made during the reporting period	0	0	0	0
For which no management decision has been made by the end of the reporting period	0	0	0	0

Source: OIG.

---

**Table 5: Audit, Inspection, and Evaluation Reports with Recommendations That Funds Be Put to Better Use**

---

<b>Reporting requirements</b>	<b>Number of reports</b>	<b>Number of recommendations</b>	<b>Dollar value</b>
For which no management decision has been made by the commencement of the reporting period	0	0	0
Which were issued during the reporting period	0	0	0
For which a management decision was made during the reporting period	0	0	0
For which no management decision has been made by the end of the reporting period	0	0	0

---

Source: OIG.

(999826)

## REPORTING FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE IN THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

To report fraud, waste, or abuse in Commission programs and operations, do one of the following. (You may do so anonymously.)

- Call toll-free (866) 680-7963 to speak with a hotline specialist, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Report online at: <https://oig.alertline.com>.

## OBTAINING COPIES OF OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND TESTIMONIES

- Copies of OIG reports, publications, and testimonies are available on the Commission's website: <http://www.usccr.gov/OIG/index.php>.