



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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Contact [John Milgrim](#): 518-474-1010

NEW YORK STATE OFFICES OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL RECOGNIZED AS 2015 INSURANCE FRAUD FIGHTER OF THE YEAR

ALBANY – The Offices of New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott have been honored as the 2015 Insurance Fraud Fighter of the Year by the New York Alliance Against Insurance Fraud (“NYAAIF”), a group representing and supported by more than 100 insurance companies to build public awareness of insurance fraud.

The NYAAIF recognized in particular the Inspector General’s ongoing work investigating and rooting out fraud in the State’s Workers’ Compensation system as well as fighting waste, fraud and abuse throughout State government.

Inspector General Leahy Scott accepted the award on the Offices’ behalf after delivering the keynote address at the NYAAIF annual meeting this month in New York City.

“I am extremely grateful for the recognition bestowed upon all the members of my office for their skill, perseverance and dedication to public service,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “I remain very proud of my Offices’ efforts and look forward to continuing our groundbreaking work that we excel at in fighting waste, fraud and abuse.”

“Passion, leadership and results sum up the Inspector General Leahy Scott’s success in pursuing vigorous investigations of insurance con artists in New York,” said **Jim Berrigan, Chair of the New York Alliance Against Insurance Fraud**. “Insurance fraud victimizes all honest New Yorkers, who should not have to pay for the crimes of others. The Inspector General and her office are taking fraudsters off the streets, and sending a strong deterrent message that insurance fraud is a straight road to a criminal conviction.”

Aside from her role as New York State Inspector General, Catherine Leahy Scott was also appointed Workers’ Compensation Fraud Inspector General (“WCFIG”) in February 2015.

Throughout 2015, Inspector General Leahy Scott has worked at fortifying the functions of the WCFIG office, which investigates allegations of misconduct within the Workers’ Compensation system, including allegations against employees, employers, health care providers, attorneys, brokers and insurance carriers. During the year, Inspector General Leahy Scott’s office uncovered more than \$1.77 million in fraud and overpayments in the Workers’ Compensation System, and managed investigations leading to numerous criminal prosecutions.

The investigations and prosecutions coincided with enhanced outreach efforts, including stakeholder trainings by the Inspector General, to increase public awareness of Workers' Compensation fraud in the State.

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The New York State Office of the Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General investigates fraud, abuse and/or illegal acts against the New York State Workers' Compensation system, including fraud by medical service providers, employers seeking to evade appropriate Workers' Compensation charges, and employees who fabricate injuries to fraudulently receive system benefits. Complaints and referrals are kept confidential. We can be reached by calling toll free: 1-800-367-4448, utilizing our online complaint form at <http://www.ig.ny.gov> or sending an email to: inspector.general@ig.ny.gov. You also can write to our office at: Office of the Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 2, 16th Floor, Albany, New York 12223