



Cuyahoga County, Agency of Inspector General
Inspector General Mark D. Griffin



ANN MARIE DEANE
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Mark D. Griffin serves as Cuyahoga County's ("County") second Inspector General. Mr. Griffin was appointed as IG by County Executive Armond Budish and was unanimously confirmed by County Council. In his role as IG Mr. Griffin is responsible for investigating waste, fraud and abuse in the County, which has approximately five thousand (5,000) employees and a one point three billion (\$1.3 billion) dollar annual budget. Recognizing the improvements in the County's ethics policies, the U.S. State Department has asked Mr. Griffin to meet with international delegations from the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America to share best practices.

During his tenure as IG, Mr. Griffin has overseen several major investigations, and provided continuing ethics counsel to County employees, elected officials and board members. Recent investigations have included a review of the County Department of Development's loan practices which uncovered over \$5 million in uncollected loans payments and interest; and an investigation that revealed a time-fraud scheme in which taxpayers were overcharged for nearly 50% of the hours County process servers claimed, but did not actually work. Also, prior to the 2016 Republican National Convention, the AIG worked with County Council staff to devise a system for expediting ethics opinions during the Convention – an efficiency that saved many headaches. Similarly, to improve efficiency and the County customer experience, Mr. Griffin streamlined many of the compliance processes and procedures at the AIG, including (1) making all AIG forms electronic and available on the agency website, (2) cutting back on the amount of paper U.S. mail the office sends to contractors and employees, and (3) collaborating with other departments to engage an electronic-system for drivers' license reviews.

Furthermore, the agency continuously promotes its "Culture of Compliance" agenda by teaming up with local "good government" groups and the Ohio Ethics Commission to host an Ethics continuing legal education program; drafting and distributing a Plain Language Guide to the County Ethics Code; providing a short introduction to the agency at bi-monthly new employee orientation; giving a substantive presentation to various County departments; and developing an Ethics Update monthly series. Finally, Mr. Griffin believes that diversity and inclusion, and varied points of view enhance the agency. Accordingly, Mr. Griffin has named a Chief Diversity Officer for the agency.

Prior to becoming IG, Mr. Griffin represented whistleblowers in matters before federal court and state court involving the United States ("U.S.") Department of Labor, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. He practiced law for more than twenty (20) years with a substantial part of his law practice including the investigation of dishonest and fraudulent conduct. Mr. Griffin litigated cases under the False Claims Act involving allegations that certain defendants defrauded the United States. He has also represented U.S. Treasury agents who investigated money-laundering and financial fraud allegations; as well as whistleblowers who revealed fraudulent practices in major hospital chains, assisted living facilities and pharmacies.

Mr. Griffin earned his Masters' Degree in Public Policy from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He graduated at the top of his class from Case Western Reserve University School of Law and received his Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Griffin's background includes working as an Intern for a Conservative member of British Parliament, and serving two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Cameroon, West Africa building schools, supporting small economic development projects and promoting community development.