



NEWS RELEASE

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D.C. Attorney Sworn In as SBA Inspector General

WASHINGTON – Harold Damelin, a Washington, D.C. attorney and graduate of the Boston College Law School, has been confirmed by the Senate as inspector general for the U.S. Small Business Administration. He starts work today.

“With 30 years of litigation experience in both the federal government and private practice, Mr. Damelin brings an exceptional background to the SBA,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. “His government experience in fraud and abuse legislation, as well as his private-practice experience in federal regulatory compliance, will help ensure our customers that they’re receiving efficient and effective small business startup and expansion services.”

The Office of Inspector General is responsible for conducting independent reviews, audits and investigations of all SBA programs and participants in order to prevent fraud and abuse and to recommend ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of SBA’s programs and operations. Damelin replaces Phyllis Fong, who left in December to become inspector general for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Before entering private practice in 1986, Damelin spent nearly 12 years as a federal prosecutor with the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice in both the Fraud and the Public Integrity Sections, and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of Columbia. From 1986-1995 he was a partner at two law firms where he represented corporations and their officers as well as public officials facing investigation on allegations of fraud and corruption. He has also advised numerous corporations on federal regulatory compliance programs.

In 1995, he rejoined the public sector, serving for two years as staff director and chief counsel for the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, and then for a year as senior counsel during the special investigation by the U.S. Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs looking into the campaign fundraising practices during the 1996 election.

In 1999, Damelin returned to private practice with the Washington, D.C., firm of Powers, Pyles, Sutter & Verville where he headed the firm’s fraud and abuse practice group. He leaves that firm to take his position with the SBA.

*For more information about SBA’s programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640 or visit the SBA’s extensive Web site at www.sba.gov. The SBA, in co-sponsorship with Staples, has introduced an online newsletter **SBA Solutions**. For a free subscription, go to <http://web.sba.gov/list> and select New **SBA Solutions Newsletter**.*

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