



## INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2011-08-0256

September 1, 2011

### ATTORNEY GENERAL CONTINGENCY FEE CONTRACT

*Inspector General Staff Attorney Kristi Shute, after examination and review, reports as follows:*

The purpose of this Report is to fulfill the statutory requirements of I.C. 4-6-3-2.5 (effective July 1, 2011) regarding contingency fee contracts. The Indiana General Assembly directed the Office of the Inspector General (“OIG”) to review contingency fee contracts for possible conflicts of interest and code of ethics violations through Public Law 101, which became effective in July 2011.

On August 25, 2011, the Office of the Attorney General (“AG”) notified the OIG that it wished to enter into a contingency fee contract with a Law Firm in California. The contract’s purpose is to pursue collections of judgments against numerous defendants located in California. The AG explained in its request that it interviewed three California firms. The AG noted that the chosen Law Firm has a reasonable fee and also received a favorable review from Arizona’s Attorney General’s Office. The Law Firm also handles collection cases throughout

California and is not limited to a particular region. In addition, the AG confirmed that no AG staff or family member has a financial interest in the Law Firm chosen for this work or the contingency fee contract itself.

After examination and review, the OIG has determined that the contract will not violate the code of ethics or any statute or agency rule concerning conflicts of interest. First, the contract is with a Law Firm located in California. Therefore, the Law Firm does not employ any state employees. Furthermore, the AG confirmed that no AG staff or family member has a financial interest in the Law Firm or the contract.

Since it has been determined that entering into the contract will not violate the code of ethics or any statute or agency rule concerning conflicts of interest, this Report is issued in compliance with the above noted statutory requirements.

Dated this 1st day of September, 2011.

APPROVED

/signed/

David O. Thomas, Inspector General