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**FIGHTING POLITICAL CORRUPTION —
MAKE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICES STRONG,
BPI REPORT FINDS**

A New BPI Study Looks at Five Illinois Inspector General Offices and Shows How to Improve Their Effectiveness in Fighting Political Corruption

Chicago-based public interest law and policy center Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI) released a new report today that highlights the importance of inspector general offices in the fight to combat the corrosive effects of political corruption.

Inspectors General and Government Corruption: A Guide to Best Practices and an Assessment of Five Illinois Offices looks into the role of inspectors general (IGs) and how well five Illinois IG offices are working. Based on its analysis of best practices nationally BPI recommends ways to design IG offices to maximize their effectiveness.

The report's principal author is Senior Staff Attorney Alexander Polikoff, who will present BPI's findings before the Association of Inspectors General Spring Conference on May 18 at the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza.

BPI Executive Director Hoy McConnell said, "IG offices play an essential role in good government—and here in Illinois they're critical to efforts to root out waste, fraud and outright corruption in government at every level. For democracy to work, people have to have trust in their elected officials—and strong IG offices, as internal government watchdogs with the power to investigate and prosecute public corruption, are essential to good government. We hope BPI's report will be a useful resource for policymakers, advocates and the general public in demonstrating how well-designed IG offices can help combat the virus of public corruption."

The five Illinois OIGs examined in the report include two each for the State and City of Chicago and one for Cook County with an assessment of their strengths and weaknesses and recommendations on how these offices can be strengthened.

BPI's report was funded by The Joyce Foundation of Chicago.

About Business and Professional People for the Public Interest *Founded in 1969, BPI is a Chicago-based public interest law and policy center that seeks out and addresses important issues of social justice and quality of life in the Chicago region. Currently BPI works to preserve and increase affordable housing, transform public housing and strengthen Chicago communities, improve Chicago's public schools, and promote open and honest government in Illinois. Considered one of Chicago's most tenacious and versatile advocates for the public interest, BPI lawyers and policy specialists use legal and policy research, advocacy, litigation, organizing and collaboration with nonprofit, business, community and governmental organizations to accomplish the organization's mission. More information is at www.bpichicago.org.*