

the IG Connection



A newsletter brought to you by the Division of Inspector General
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller, Pinellas County, Florida

June 2017



KEN BURKE

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
AND COMPTROLLER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

May - International Internal Audit Awareness Month

How Fast is Stolen Identity Information Used

Farewell and Welcome to the IG Team

FRAUD ALERT

SIGN UP TODAY and receive free alerts when a document with your name is recorded in Official Records. Protect yourself from fraud. **CLICK HERE.**

GET IN TOUCH:

Write:
Public Integrity Unit
Division of Inspector General
Fraud Hotline
510 Bay Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33756

Call:
(727) 45FRAUD
(727) 453-7283

Fax:
(727) 464-8386

E-mail:
fraudhotline@mypinellasclerk.org

Internet:
www.mypinellasclerk.org
www.twitter.com/pinellasig
www.facebook.com/igpinellas

Happenings at IG

May - International Internal Audit Awareness Month



The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) declared May as International Internal Audit Awareness Month. IIA, with more than 60,000 members in the United States alone, works to promote sound corporate governance and ethical practices, and strives to increase awareness about the value of internal auditing.

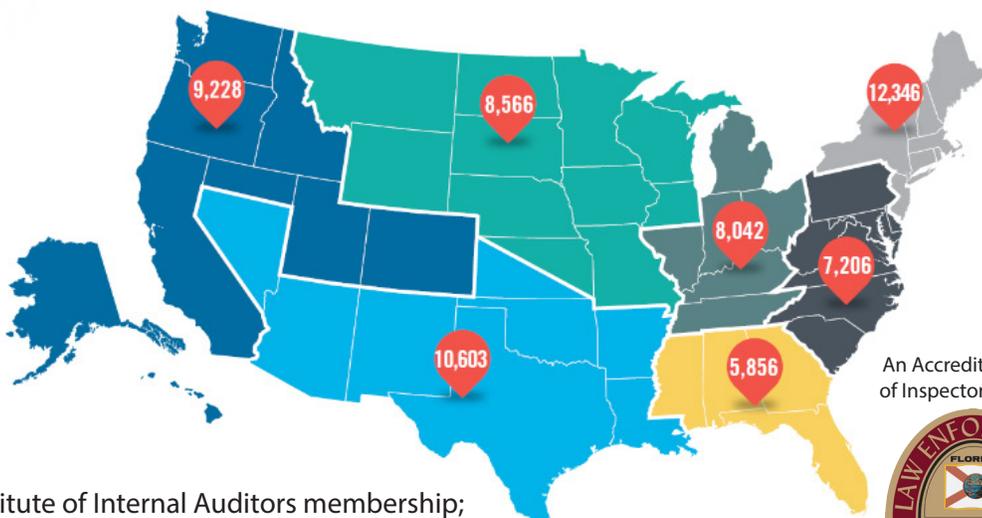
Internal auditors perform activities such as:

- Assess the adequacy of risk management.
- Provide independent assurance to senior management and the board.
- Evaluate overall compliance with laws and regulations.
- Promote an ethical culture.

Internal audit plays an important role in every organization because it is uniquely positioned to provide independent assurance on the adequacy of internal controls in place, the effectiveness of the risk management process, and whether organizational goals and strategic objectives are being met.

Internal auditing can help improve an organization's governance, ethics, transparency, and regulatory compliance.

60,000+ U.S. Members



An Accredited Office of Inspectors General



Institute of Internal Auditors membership;
Data as of December 2016 (Source: www.theiia.org) *Continued on next page*

the IG Connection

A newsletter brought to you by the Division of Inspector General
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller, Pinellas County, Florida



Division of Inspector General

The mission of the Division of Inspector General (Division) is to improve government and preserve the public trust by providing independent, comprehensive audits and investigations designed to add value and improve the County's operations and contracts. The Division supports the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller's Probate Court Records staff by conducting varying levels of audits and financial investigations related to guardianship reports and activities.

Currently, the Division maintains three hotlines:

1. The Fraud Hotline for reporting fraud, waste and abuse of County resources.
2. The Guardianship Hotline for reporting fraud related to Guardianship cases.
3. PREA Hotline - Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Prison Rape Elimination Act Hotline to allow incarcerated individuals to report sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

In addition to offering a variety of consulting and training services, the Division performs these services in accordance with the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing promulgated by the Institute of Internal Auditors. Investigations are performed according to the Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General and the Florida Inspectors General Standards Manual from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

Cybercrime Statistics

Cybercrime has become a trillion dollar industry. The cost of cybercrime will reach \$2 trillion globally by 2019. The cost to a business per breach is \$4 million and as much as \$7 million in the U.S. The cost of breaches in the health care and financial services sectors are greater than all other industry groups. Criminals are not just searching for bank accounts and social security numbers. Theft of trade secrets ranges from one to three percent of a nation's gross domestic product.



Cyberattacks do not only happen at large companies. Fifty percent of small and mid-sized companies (100 to 1,000 employees) surveyed reported at least one cyberattack in the past twelve months. The average cost of the theft of assets to the small and mid-sized companies was \$879,582. These companies spent another \$955,428 to restore normal business activities.

The cost of preventing cyberattacks also cost companies billions of dollars. Global spending to secure networks and equipment reached \$80 billion in 2016. Nearly two thirds of companies surveyed employ security services. The purchase of cyber insurance has drastically grown from \$1 billion in 2014 to \$2.5 billion in 2016.

Source: <https://securityintelligence.com/20-eye-opening-cybercrime-statistics/>

the IG Connection

A newsletter brought to you by the Division of Inspector General
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller, Pinellas County, Florida



How Fast is Stolen Identity Information Used?

Recently the Federal Trade Commission created a test to measure how fast a person's identity information is used by hackers and thieves. One hundred fake identities were created that included such things as name, address, email, credit card numbers, and passwords. The fake identities were posted to websites used by hackers and thieves over a 14-day period.

The same identity data was posted at two separate times. The first posting received approximately 100 views and the second posting received approximately 550 views. The first attempt to use the stolen identity information after the first posting was 1 ½ hours. After the second posting, it only took nine minutes for the thieves to attempt to use the fake identities.

The study recorded data such as the total access attempts, geolocation of the access attempts, and attempted purchases. After the first posting, the total number of unauthorized access attempts were 119 compared to 1,108 unauthorized attempts after the second posting. The vast amount of IP addresses that attempted to use fake identities were from the United States. The total amount of attempted purchases during the 14-day period was over \$12,000.

Source: https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/how-fast-will-identity-thieves-use-stolen-info?utm_source=govdelivery



Melissa Dondero, Jason Stanley, Cassy Moreau, Robert Poynter, Mary Beth Makrianes, and Darcy Eckert recently passed the Certified Inspector General Investigator (CIGI) examination in Jacksonville.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTERS



Darcy Eckert, Robert Poynter, and Jason Stanley attended a two-week training

"Essentials of Inspector General Investigations" at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) in Glynco, Georgia, where they learned basic criminal, civil, and administrative investigative techniques.

Farewell and Best Wishes

Longtime employee, **William (Bill) McGuinness**, retired on April 28th after serving 13 years with the Division of Inspector General. He plans to enjoy his retirement with his family of six children, seven grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

Welcome to the IG Team

Corey Atha joined the Division of Inspector General in March. He comes to the Division after spending 11 years at the Pinellas County's Economic Development department, and having previously worked as a Probate Auditor in the Clerk's Probate Court Records department for 3 years.