

## Analysis of Systems, Controls, and Legal Compliance

### Internal Control Program in the Department of Justice

The objective of the Department of Justice's internal control program is to provide reasonable assurance that operations are effective, efficient, and comply with applicable laws and regulations; financial reporting is reliable; and assets are safeguarded against waste, loss, and unauthorized use. The Department identifies issues of concern through a strong network of oversight councils and internal review teams. These include the Department's Senior Assessment Team, the Justice Management Division's Internal Review and Evaluation Office and Quality Control and Compliance Group, and Departmental component internal review teams. The Department also considers reports by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in its evaluation of internal control.

The Department's internal control continues to improve through the corrective actions implemented by senior management. The Department's commitment to management excellence, accountability, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations is evidenced in our continuing actions to establish effective controls, make sound determinations on corrective actions, and verify and validate the results. This commitment is further evidenced by the many control improvements and actions taken by Departmental management in response to OMB initiatives and OIG recommendations. For example, during FY 2010, in response to the OMB *Open Government Directive – Framework for the Quality of Federal Spending Information*, Departmental management developed a framework with details of the internal controls implemented over information quality, including system and process changes, and the integration of these controls within the Department's existing infrastructure. The framework reflects the coordinated efforts that are occurring among Departmental components and offices to ensure effective implementation of the principles of transparency, participation, and collaboration set forth in the President's January 2009 Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government. In addition, Departmental management continued in FY 2010 to further strengthen and maximize the effectiveness of the Department's assessment of internal control over financial reporting, which is required by Appendix A of OMB Circular A-123. Examples of such efforts include:

- refining the framework and process for assessing internal control over financial reporting,
- enhancing the oversight process to ensure prompt and proper implementation of corrective actions,
- providing direct assistance to components with previously identified material weaknesses and reportable conditions, and
- continuing to support and commit resources to Departmental component internal review programs.

Details on additional actions taken by Departmental management to build and sustain a strong internal control program are included later in this section.