
Catherine Donovan



Deputy Naval Inspector General

Ms. Catherine Donovan is the Deputy Naval Inspector General, a position she assumed on April 30, 2017. The Naval Inspector General reports to the Secretary of the Navy as the senior investigative official in the Department of the Navy (DON). The Deputy Naval Inspector General particularly is charged with overseeing sensitive investigations involving senior officials and investigations into fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement at every level of the Department.

Prior to this position, Ms. Donovan had a lengthy career as an attorney. She most recently served as Assistant General Counsel (Financial Management and Comptroller) (FM&C), where she was the primary legal advisor on fiscal matters for the DON. She assumed that position in May 2013.

Ms. Donovan served as Counsel, Office of Naval Research (ONR), from December 2011, when she was promoted into the Senior Executive Service, through May 2013. ONR is an Echelon 1 Command that serves as the Department of the Navy's Science and Technology provider. Ms. Donovan was legal advisor to the Chief of Naval Research on all aspects of the operations of ONR, with an emphasis on the execution of its basic research budget and the administration of contracts and grants for the Department of Defense at all educational institutions. Prior to her appointment to the SES, she was an Associate Counsel at ONR, overseeing the General Law Division. Before that, she was Deputy Associate General Counsel in the General Law Division at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and prior to that, she was the Deputy Assistant General Counsel (Manpower & Reserve Affairs) (M&RA) for the Department of the Navy.

Ms. Donovan initially joined the Navy Office of General Counsel (OGC) in 1988. She started her OGC career with the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) in the civilian personnel law section. In 1993 Ms. Donovan transferred from NAVSEA Headquarters to serve as Assistant Counsel for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington. In 1996 she returned to the Washington, D.C. area and served as an Assistant Counsel in the Human Resources Operations Center (now part of the Office of Civilian Human Resources (OCHR)), went on to become an Associate Counsel in the Office of the Assistant General Counsel (M&RA), and then Counsel, OCHR. Prior to her Navy OGC career, Ms. Donovan was a captain in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and served as labor counselor and trial counsel while stationed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

A graduate of Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Ms. Donovan received her J.D. from the Syracuse University College of Law in Syracuse, New York. She is admitted to practice law in New York. In 1996 Ms. Donovan received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for her work at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. Ms. Donovan has received the Superior Civilian Service Award three times – in 2002 for her work at OCHR, in 2007 for her work at M&RA, and in 2016 for her work as AGC (FM&C).