

Mr. Robert J. Feitel



Robert J. Feitel was sworn in on May 27, 2020 by Chairman Kristine L. Svinicki as the third Inspector General in the NRC's history. He was awarded his Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1987, and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1990. During law school, Mr. Feitel clerked as a fellow for the Honorable Rosalyn B. Bell of the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland, and was appointed to the Moot Court board. Following law school, he served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Stephen M. Waldron, Circuit Court for Harford County, Maryland. In 1991, Mr. Feitel joined the law firm of Carr, Goodson and Lee, P.C. in Washington, D.C. as an Associate, where he focused on product liability defense and professional malpractice defense litigation. In 1995, he joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Office of the General Counsel, as an Assistant General Counsel, where he managed contract and tort litigation, legal forfeiture matters, and advised Chief Division Counsel for all FBI field offices nationwide. While at the FBI, he served as Acting Unit Chief of the Civil Litigation Unit. He also served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Virginia in 2001-2002. In late 2002, Mr. Feitel joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, where he served with distinction in the Appellate, Misdemeanor, Felony Trial, Felony Sex Offense & Domestic Violence, and Homicide Sections of the Superior Court Division, and the Federal Major Crimes Section of the Criminal Division. In 2009, Mr. Feitel was detailed to the President's Executive Order Task Force for the Review of Guantanamo Bay Detainees. At the completion of his task force tenure, in 2010, he was invited by the Chief of Staff of the Justice Department's National Security Division to work on a detail at the Office of Intelligence, Counter-Terrorism Unit. While on that detail, Mr. Feitel prepared extensive applications for court-authorized electronic surveillance and physical search of terrorism suspects and agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, and appeared several times before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. In early 2011, Mr. Feitel returned to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, where he continued to investigate and prosecute some of the most challenging cases in the Homicide Section, until joining the Capital Case Section of Main Justice in August 2014. At the Capital Case Section, Mr. Feitel advised the Attorney General and his Capital Case Review Committee in relation to legal and factual issues relevant to the Committee's recommendations to the Attorney General in capital matters. Mr. Feitel also served as first chair trial counsel in federal capital trials around the nation, assisting U.S. Attorney's Offices with all facets of their respective capital litigation. He is admitted to practice law in state and federal courts in Maryland and the District of Columbia, as well as the United States Supreme Court. On October 30, 2019, Mr. Feitel was nominated by the President to be Inspector General of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. On December 3, 2019, a Senate confirmation hearing was held before the Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee of the Environment and Public Works Committee, and he was unanimously confirmed (87-0) by the U.S. Senate on May 4, 2020.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of the Inspector General was established April 15, 1989, pursuant to Inspector General Act Amendments contained in Public Law 100-504. The mission of the NRC Inspector General, as spelled out in the Act is to: (1) conduct and supervise independent audits and investigations of agency programs and operations, (2) promote economy, effectiveness, and efficiency within the agency, (3) prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse in agency programs and operations, (4) review and make recommendations regarding existing and proposed regulations relating to agency programs and operations, and (5) keep the agency head and Congress fully informed of problems in agency programs. The Act also requires the IG to report to the NRC Chairman and Congress semiannually on the results of OIG activities.