

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Phyllis K. Fong, to Receive AGA's Distinguished Federal Leadership Award

Alexandria, Virginia—Ms. Phyllis K. Fong, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture, will receive the prestigious Distinguished Federal Leadership Award from the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) on February 11. Ms. Fong's award will be presented at the Association's National Leadership Training in Washington, D.C.

The Distinguished Federal Leadership Award was formally established to recognize elected or presidentially-appointed federal officials who exemplify and promote excellence in government management and have demonstrated outstanding leadership in enhancing sound financial management legislation, regulations, practices, policies and systems.

This award is in recognition of Ms. Fong's effective leadership as Inspector General (IG) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and as the first Chairperson of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE). In these positions, she has promoted excellence and accountability in financial management to ensure the effective delivery of government programs and services to the American people.

Ms. Fong has served over 30 years in the federal IG community. At the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Ms. Fong held a number of legal and management positions culminating in her presidential appointment as the IG at SBA. She was subsequently nominated to serve as the IG at USDA, and confirmed by the Senate, in 2002.

She is currently in her third term as CIGIE's Chair. Under Ms. Fong's leadership, both CIGIE and USDA's OIG have reported significant results that have had positive impact on government financial and program management. For the fiscal years 2009-2012, the IG community has reported significant results from its audit, inspection/evaluation, and investigative activities.

Collectively, in this period, federal OIGs working pursuant to CIGIE's professional standards issued 29,600 audit and inspection reports, closed 107,700 investigations, obtained 25,000 indictments and 22,900 convictions, and reported potential savings totaling over \$93 billion. CIGIE also commissioned and issued cross-cutting reports that addressed a variety of program and financial management issues, designed to improve how government functions.

Ms. Fong graduated from Pomona College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Asian Studies and

earned her Juris Doctor degree from the Vanderbilt University School of Law. Ms. Fong is a member of the Tennessee and District of Columbia bars.

About AGA: AGA is the member organization for financial professionals in government. We lead and encourage change that benefits our field and all citizens. Our networking events, professional certification, publications and ongoing education help members build their skills and advance their careers. www.agacgfm.org