

Georgia Non-Public Post-Secondary Education Commission (GNPEC)

Current Inspector General: Deron R. Hicks, Esq.

Bio: As State Inspector General, Mr. Hicks directs the Office responsible for investigating allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse in the Executive Branch of state government. He is also the Transparency and Accountability Arm of the ARRA (Stimulus) Implementation Team for the State.

Mr. Hicks previously worked nine years as a partner with Page, Scranton, Sprouse, and Ford located in Columbus, GA. He specialized in construction law, strategic consulting, and general litigation. Most recently, from 2007 to 2010, Mr. Hicks served as general counsel for the Homebuilders Association of Georgia.

Mr. Hicks received his bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia and his law degree from Mercer University. For over ten years, Mr. Hicks has enjoyed working as an adjunct professor in Mercer's School of Law.

Other Staff:

Deborah Wallace - Senior Deputy Inspector General

Bill Donaldson - Deputy Inspector General

Liana Rummel - Investigator

About the Office: The Georgia Non-Public Post-Secondary Education Commission (GNPEC) is charged with fostering and promoting accountability and integrity in state government. Key to public trust is the expectation that the GNPEC will hold state officials accountable for efficient, cost effective government operations and to prevent, detect, identify, expose and eliminate fraud, waste, abuse and corruption. The GNPEC shall investigate complaints regarding management and operation of state agencies within the executive branch to determine if wrongful acts or omissions have been, or are being committed by state officers or employees. Reports of investigation shall be provided to the Governor and the department head of the agency/person under investigation. Reports will include recommendations for correcting and avoiding recurrence of circumstances uncovered by the investigation. When appropriate, reports of investigation will be forwarded for prosecutor review to determine if the underlying facts give rise to criminal prosecution.

Purpose: The function of the GNPEC is to investigate allegations of fraud, waste, abuse and corruption within the Executive Branch of Georgia State government. The Georgia Non-Public Post-Secondary Education Commission is an independent, objective investigatory agency. It does not represent any party or agency in an investigation and does not investigate on "behalf" of any individual or agency. GNPEC conducts investigations without regard to partisan politics allegiances, status, or influence. If an individual is seeking legal representation, s/he should consult an attorney.

History: The Georgia Non-Public Post-Secondary was created on July 1, 2015, by Executive Order of the Governor. [Click here](#) to access the Executive Order in its entirety.

Contact Information:

Georgia Non-Public Post-Secondary
Education Commission
2 Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive, S.W.
1102 West Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Email: inspector.general@oig.ga.gov

Telephone: 404-656-7924

Toll Free: 866-HELP OIG or 866-435-7644

Fax: 404-657-9716

For more information visit oig.georgia.gov.