



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

MARGARET GARNETT
COMMISSIONER

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**DOI COMMISSIONER MARGARET GARNETT TAKES OFFICE TODAY
AND ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE TEAM MEMBERS**

Margaret Garnett, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), took office today, taking the oath on Friday at the City Clerk’s Office. Commissioner Garnett is a veteran state and federal prosecutor who has investigated, prosecuted and supervised hundreds of criminal cases that involved an array of crimes including complex financial crimes, robberies, drug conspiracies, homicide, and public corruption. In her work as a prosecutor, Commissioner Garnett has also helped free individuals wrongfully convicted.

DOI Commissioner Garnett said, “Leading the agency that ensures City government is achieving the highest ethical standards; that defends the dignity of public service; that fights to make City agencies work better for the people they serve; and that helps New Yorkers trust in the integrity of their government -- is a thrilling moment for me personally and professionally. As Commissioner, I look forward to continuing the agency’s distinct legacy as an independent watchdog that carries out its mission without fear or favor. In these next few weeks, I am focused on getting to know DOI’s investigators, lawyers, auditors, analysts and administrative staff, and in reviewing the agency’s broad docket of cases. Hitting the ground running is important to maintaining the agency’s momentum and, to that end, I am proud to announce three members of my executive team: joining me today are First Deputy Commissioner Daniel Cort and Deputy Commissioner of Investigations Dominick Zarrella. They both are consummate investigative professionals who I worked with at the New York State Attorney General’s Office and whose expertise and guidance will allow me to get up to speed swiftly and effectively. Joining in January is Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs and General Counsel Leslie Dubeck. Leslie is a brilliant lawyer and advisor whose experience as General Counsel to the Attorney General — another complex organization with a broad mandate — will be invaluable in helping me manage the powers of DOI and ensure that we ourselves adhere to the highest ethical standards.”

First Deputy Commissioner Daniel Cort and Deputy Commissioner of Investigations Dominick Zarrella both started today. Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs Leslie Dubeck will join DOI in January.

About First Deputy Commissioner Daniel Cort

For the past 4 ½ years, Daniel Cort served as Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau at the Office of the New York State Attorney General (“OAG”) leading a team of lawyers, investigators, analysts, and auditors who investigated and prosecuted government corruption, fraud and abuse of authority, across New York State. During his time at the Attorney General’s Office, the Public Integrity Bureau’s prosecutions led to the convictions of several judges, a member of the State Assembly, a New York City Councilmember, and numerous other public servants. Prior to working at the Attorney General’s Office, Mr. Cort worked in the New York County District Attorney’s Office for nineteen years as an Assistant District Attorney, including as Chief of the Public Integrity Unit. While at the D.A.’s Office, Mr. Cort tried eighteen cases in State Supreme Court, including the successful prosecution of a Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Department of Buildings on corruption charges. He secured a conviction of a New York City councilmember on campaign finance-related crimes and was lead prosecutor in a multi-year investigation that resulted in the felony convictions and disbarments of fourteen lawyers. Mr. Cort also served as Deputy Bureau Chief and Acting Bureau Chief of the Rackets Bureau and as a Senior Investigative Counsel. He began his career in 1988 as a litigation associate at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York,

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and served as Assistant Counsel at the New York State Commission of Investigation from 1991 to 1994. From 1994 to 1995, he worked as a Nominations Counsel at the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary. Mr. Cort is a graduate of Drew University and the Georgetown University Law Center.

About Deputy Commissioner of Investigations Dominick Zarrella

Dominick Zarrella has 38 years of law enforcement experience. Prior to joining DOI, he served as the Chief Investigator at the Office of the New York State Attorney General. As Chief Investigator, he was responsible for the day-to-day investigative and administrative operations of the Investigations Bureau and supervised over 200 police investigators and 30 investigative specialists assigned to nine units throughout the state. Prior to becoming Chief Investigator, his other roles at the Attorney General's Office included Deputy Chief Investigator of the Auto Insurance Fraud Unit, and Assistant Chief Investigator in the Organized Crime Task Force. Before joining the OAG, Mr. Zarrella served 22 years in the New York City Police Department and retired at the rank of Lieutenant Commander Detective Squad. Sixteen of his twenty-two years at NYPD were served in investigative assignments including the Organized Crime Control Bureau, Internal Affairs Bureau, and the Detective Bureau.

About Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs & General Counsel Leslie Dubeck

Leslie Dubeck is coming to DOI from her position as General Counsel to the Office of the New York Attorney General. In her role as General Counsel, Ms. Dubeck has served as a direct legal advisor to the Attorney General, as well as ensuring that the agency as a whole complies with its statutory and ethical obligations. She has advised and assisted in defending challenges to the agency's authority and in creating new entities within the agency, conducted internal investigations (including into allegations of ethical violations), and managed the agency-wide FOIL process as well as relationships with other government agencies. Ms. Dubeck joined the OAG as an Assistant Solicitor General in July 2011 and has served in various counsel titles since 2013. Prior to joining the OAG, she practiced appellate law at the New York office of Jones Day. From 2007 to 2009, Ms. Dubeck was a law clerk first for the Honorable Lewis A. Kaplan in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and then for the Honorable Robert A. Katzmann of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Ms. Dubeck received her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and her law degree from New York University School of Law. During law school, she was a Furman Academic Scholar and Managing Editor of the New York University Law Review.

About DOI Commissioner Margaret Garnett

Margaret Garnett was nominated by Mayor Bill de Blasio to be DOI Commissioner in November 2018 and confirmed by the City Council the same month. She most recently served as Executive Deputy Attorney General for Criminal Justice at the New York State Attorney General's Office, and previously was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, where she served as Chief of Appeals and Chief of the Violent and Organized Crime Unit, among other roles. She tried fifteen criminal cases to verdict, including the then-largest tax fraud case in US history. In 2011, Ms. Garnett received the Director's Award for Outstanding Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney, the second-highest award in the Department of Justice. In 2016, Ms. Garnett received the Stimson Medal, given annually by the Association for the Bar of the City of New York to one exceptional Assistant United States Attorney from each division of the U.S. Attorney's Offices for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. Ms. Garnett was previously an Associate at Watchell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. Ms. Garnett has served as an adjunct professor at Columbia Law School and Brooklyn Law School, and clerked for the Honorable Gerard E. Lynch in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. She received her B.A. at the University of Notre Dame, her M.A. from Yale University, and her J.D. from Columbia University.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country and New York City's corruption watchdog. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City. DOI's strategy attacks corruption comprehensively through systemic investigations that lead to high-impact arrests, preventive internal controls and operational reforms that improve the way the City runs.

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Bribery and Corruption are a Trap. Don't Get Caught Up. Report It at 212-3-NYC-DOI.**