

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Auditor Commissions 10-Year Evaluation of the Office of Administrative Hearings**

**Washington D.C.** – The Office of the District of Columbia Auditor has commissioned a 10-year evaluation of the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH), which was established by the D.C. Council to serve as an independent, impartial forum to review administrative decisions by D.C. government agencies.

The evaluation will be performed by the Council for Court Excellence (CCE), a non-profit, non-partisan civic organization that works to improve the administration of justice in the Washington metropolitan area. The legislation that established OAH was based largely on research and analysis performed by CCE on behalf of the District of Columbia Corporation Counsel.

CCE will review the implementation of the Office of Administrative Hearings Establishment Act and make recommendations about statutory and policy changes that will promote fair, efficient, and effective adjudication of administrative disputes in the District of Columbia. To inform the evaluation, CCE plans to gather input from parties to OAH cases, OAH’s administrative law judges and staff, and other D.C. government officials; assess court operations; and review the policies and practices of other centralized administrative hearing panels. The evaluation will be completed by the end of June 2016.

D.C. Auditor, Kathy Patterson stated that, “This is an opportune time to evaluate whether OAH is fulfilling its mission to improve the administration of justice in the District of Columbia.” Patterson noted that OAH has a particularly broad reach, having docketed more than 24,000 cases in fiscal year 2013. These cases arise from decisions by more than 40 D.C. government agencies, including the Department of Public Works, the Department of Employment Services, and the Taxicab Commission.

For more information on the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, visit [dcauditor.org](http://dcauditor.org) or call 202-727-3600.