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DOI RECEIVES 2003 SHELDON OLIENSIS AWARD

-- Recognition of agency's promotion of ethics in New York City government--

The New York City Conflicts of Interest Board Chairman Steven B. Rosenfeld announced today the selection of the NYC Department of Investigation as the recipient of the 2003 Sheldon Oliensis Award, named in memory of the Board's long-time chairman who transformed what was once an advisory board into one of the premier ethics agencies in the country.

"The Department of Investigation has richly merited the Oliensis Award because it has gone well beyond the call of duty as COIB's statutory investigator and has helped COIB significantly fulfill its charter mandate to teach the conflicts of interest law to all City employees," said COIB Chairman Rosenfeld.

In the past 11 months, DOI Inspectors General have conducted more than 390 briefings for thousands of employees at nearly every City agency. During these lectures, DOI highlighted its anti-corruption efforts, reviewed the City's whistleblower protection and the conflicts of interest law. DOI also distributed COIB's one-page ethics guide in the annual "no gifts" letter distributed by the Mayor's office, thereby putting basic ethics information in the hands of virtually every City employee.

"We are proud and honored to receive this award," said DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn. "My vision is and has always been for DOI to be viewed as an investigative office of the highest caliber. It's a pleasure to be recognized for our efforts to educate City employees about how to recognize and report corruption, as well as know their rights in doing so."

The award was presented at the Eighth Citywide Ethics Seminar at New York Law School. Individual certificates of appreciation were given to Commissioner Gill Hearn, First Deputy Commissioner Elizabeth Glazer, Deputy Commissioner Dan Brownell, General Counsel Marjorie Landa,

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Assistant Commissioners Michael Caruso, Vincent E. Green, Steven A. Pasichow and Robert F. Roach, as well as Inspectors General and members of their staff.

Previous award recipients include the Department of Transportation and the Department of Environmental Protection.