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## Saluting Employees

### TDCJ Inspector General John Moriarty retires

After a 22-year career with the state of Texas, TDCJ Inspector General John Moriarty has retired.

Born in New York City, Moriarty began his law enforcement career as a New Jersey park ranger, then served eight years with the Evanston, Wyoming Police Department, working his way through the ranks from patrolman to undercover drug officer. In January 1989, Moriarty was hired as an internal affairs investigator at the Wynne Unit of what was then the Texas Department of Corrections, soon to be reorganized to create the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Moriarty recalls, "It was still within a few years of the Ruiz Decision and the Internal Affairs Division was still in its infancy. The main things we investigated every day were excessive, unnecessary use of force and general staff misconduct." In those early days, he adds, "Not all investigators were commissioned state police officers. That didn't happen till the legislative session in 1990. That was an important turning point, I think, to improve the quality of investigations inside the agency."

"In the beginning, there was a very contentious existence between the agency and Internal Affairs/Inspector General's office. That has changed dramatically over the years that I've been here. I think most of the staff knows that, a majority of the time, we come in to look at something and we end up clearing the employee. It's very few times that we end up sustaining a serious administrative



**TDCJ Inspector General  
John Moriarty retires after a 22-year career  
with the state of Texas**

violation or making an arrest for a criminal violation."

In 1996 Moriarty graduated from the FBI National Academy, a premier training program for law enforcement officers. His years of experience and rigorous training prepared him for a career involving a series of high-profile cases, including prison escapes, witnessing executions to ensure procedures are followed and investigating internal fraud and corruption.

"The Vita-Pro investigation caused the formation of the Inspector General's office. In 1999 the board appointed John McAuliffe as inspector general for the agency, and he brought me in as Chief of Operations in Austin, with oversight over the Internal Affairs Division. In May of 2001 the board appointed me inspector general and the Internal Affairs Division was absorbed by the Office of the Inspector General."

Looking back on a career which spans more than two decades, Moriarty notes that the agency has undergone a substantial change in attitude toward internal oversight. "Agency staff now takes professionalism very seriously. We understand that one employee that's corrupt can do a lot of damage to an organization, so we spend a lot of time trying to ferret out that individual in order to make it a better working environment for the good employees that are doing the hard work of the agency. The agency has developed quality managers in all divisions and it's really improved professionally over the almost 23 years I've been here." ●