

FEDERAL ACQUISITION INSTITUTE



Suspension & Debarment Interview

Monica Aquino-Thieman

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Monica Aquino-Thieman is the Agency Counsel for Acquisition Integrity and the Director of the NASA Office of the General Counsel, Acquisition Integrity Program (AIP). As part of NASA senior leadership, she serves as the Agency's lead subject matter expert and primary Agency authority in the substantive law of acquisition integrity, including procurement fraud and other contracting irregularities, non-procurement fraud, corruption, counterfeit parts, and coordination of remedies. She oversees the Agency's procurement and grant fraud program and serves as the Coordination of Remedies Official for investigations of fraud and/or public corruption. She also serves as Counsel to the NASA Suspending and Debarment Official. She has chaired the NASA Counterfeit Parts Working Group since 2008 and previously co-chaired the Department of Defense Procurement Fraud Working Group for several years. She also currently serves as an instructor on suspension and debarment for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Prior to her current position, she was the NASA Eastern Region Coordinator and Senior Attorney for procurement fraud matters. In 2006, she was one of the three original attorneys, who executed the roll-out of the NASA fraud program agency-wide.

Prior to joining NASA, Monica specialized in both litigation and government contracts at Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP, one of the top 10 largest law firms world-wide at the time. She also was a trial and appellate litigation attorney at McKenna & Cuneo LLP, a national law firm in Washington, DC. While in the private sector, her experience included:

- Counseling and representation of companies, including Fortune 500, regarding government contract, procurement fraud, and litigation related issues

- Bid protest experience including representation of a major defense contractor in the billion dollar C-130 AMP bid protest
- Federal litigation experience before the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and the U.S. District Court for District of Columbia
- False Claims Act counseling for government contract companies
- Corporate investigations related to Inspector General, SEC, and federal grand jury subpoenas

Monica, a Dual Admissions Honors Program in Law graduate, earned her Juris Doctor degree at the University of Miami School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Miami where she graduated Magna Cum Laude and served as the Undergraduate Student Body President.

