

**HCCA**



# COMPLIANCE TODAY

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HEALTH CARE  
COMPLIANCE  
ASSOCIATION

Meet

**James G. Sheehan**

New York State Medicaid Inspector General

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# Letter from the CEO



## Where will we be in 50 years?

The evolution of the compliance profession will not be determined by a single industry. The compliance profession will be determined by all industries, just as it was in the audit, legal, and human resource professions. Therefore, the future of the compliance profession for any individual industry will be determined by all industries. A standard for compliance programs and the compliance professional's job will emerge for us as it has in audit, legal, and human resources. How much authority we have, who we report to, and what resources we get will become, to some degree, standardized. Where we will be in 50 years depends on what we do now. With the emergence of the global economy, the evolution of our profession may be influenced by international trends. If we are not careful, our future could be determined by other departments that have an interest or stake in it, or simply want to control compliance.

Anticipating this, the HCCA Board started The Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics (SCCE) four years ago. We actually started having multi-industry meetings six years ago. SCCE can help other industries, and SCCE can help ensure that the fate of compliance professionals and compliance programs is determined by qualified compliance professionals.

We continue to work with other industries through SCCE. Essentially, SCCE is just like HCCA, a professional association for compliance and ethics professionals. There are over 1000 members in SCCE today; they have a magazine, annual meeting, certification program, and a Web site – just like any other professional association. Many HCCA members are attending SCCE multi-industry meetings. I remember Debbie Troklus's reaction to her first multi-industry meeting. She felt it was the best meeting she had attended in years,

primarily because of the fresh perspective and ideas generated from other industries. We are now getting international members. In fact, we have members from about one dozen countries. We have had speakers, attendees, and authors from another dozen countries. SCCE has led to several interesting developments. SCCE has an opportunity to help ensure that the future of our profession is not only determined by our profession, but is developed by those with the most experience and knowledge.

**We are the keepers of our future. Today is the day we decide if compliance and ethics professionals in all industries determine our future, or if we leave it in the hands of others who do not have our best interest in mind.**

As Debbie experienced, many new ideas are being shared across industries (and now across countries.) More importantly, job opportunities for health-care compliance professionals are increasing in other industries. Odell Guyton is now at Microsoft and Sheryl Vacca is now in charge of compliance for the largest university system in the U.S. Probably the most important impact, when all

industries work together, is on the development of the compliance professional's role and compliance programs.

We are a young profession. These are the days that will determine our future for years to come. These are the days that 50 years from now compliance professionals will look back at in astonishment or in reverence. We are the keepers of our profession. We are the keepers of our future. Today is the day we decide if compliance and ethics professionals in all industries determine our future, or if we leave it in the hands of others who do not have our best interest in mind. If we all work together our fate will be sealed. If we don't work together, our fate will be also sealed. ■