



Athena S. Elliott, MPA **Chief Compliance Officer** **Indian Health Service**

Athena S. Elliott, an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, is the chief compliance officer and director of the National Compliance Program for the Indian Health Service. The National Compliance Program oversees the Enterprise Risk Management Program, Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act Program and provides executive support to the Quality Assurance and Risk Management Committee. These key compliance activities focus on independent, internal oversight activities to assess agency-wide clinical and administrative risk management, and to identify systemic changes needed to improve the quality of health care services in IHS-operated hospitals and clinics. Ms. Elliott also serves as the IHS liaison to the HHS Office of the Inspector General.

Ms. Elliott mostly recently served as director of the IHS Office of Management Services, with an intermittent three-year assignment as executive advisor to the IHS director. Ms. Elliott provided senior leadership and advisory services ensuring that IHS-wide policy development and implementation was in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and HHS directives. She provided executive-level leadership for continuous improvement of management accountability for effective and efficient program support services throughout the agency.

Ms. Elliott has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving Indian health throughout her career, working for several years in tribal health programs and other Indian business enterprises prior to starting her federal service. Ms. Elliott has held a variety of positions at all service levels, including headquarters, area offices, and tribal positions, supporting work in the California, Albuquerque, Navajo, and Oklahoma City IHS Areas, focusing on improving the efficiency and integrity of financial management systems supporting American Indians and Alaska Natives. She has received numerous awards during her professional career, including the IHS Director's Award for Excellence, the IHS Exemplary Award for Group Performance, the HHS Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service for her work on the negotiated rulemaking committee, and numerous other awards for superior administrative service throughout her federal career. Ms. Elliott also served on the President's Task Force for Health Care Reform in 1993.

Ms. Elliott holds a Bachelor of Science in business administration and accounting from California State University, Sacramento, and a Master of Public Administration from American University in Washington, D.C.