



# NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General  
**Catherine Leahy Scott**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jan. 5, 2016  
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## **STATEMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL CATHERINE LEAHY SCOTT UPON THE CRIMINAL COERCION GUILTY PLEA OF JAMES A. FERRO, THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS FOR THE STATE PRISON SYSTEM'S SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT**

“The defendant’s guilty plea today makes clear his criminal culpability for the years of torment, abuse and reprehensible conduct he subjected his subordinates to while in his role overseeing investigations of misconduct within the New York State prison system. As my investigation uncovered, he used his position with impunity to exploit, intimidate and punish any person who attempted to expose his criminal conduct. He violated the public trust and disgraced his office. I thank Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and his office for the successful prosecution of this matter.”

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