



**Rodney A. Roberts, Director**

### **Independent Reviewers to Begin in February**

Three attorneys have been awarded contracts by the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) to serve as independent reviewers. Contracts have been awarded to Jeffrey A. Boehlert, Des Moines; Thais Ann Folta, Cresco; and Gerry W. Smeader, Ankeny.

As an independent reviewer, the attorneys will conduct federal informal dispute resolution and state informal conferences with health care facilities and assisted living programs that contest penalties imposed by the Department. Iowa law requires the reviewers to be an attorney licensed in the State of Iowa, who is not currently and has not been employed by the Department in the past eight years. Additionally, the independent reviewer cannot have appeared in front of the DIA on behalf of a health care facility or assisted living program in the past eight years.

The awarding of contracts finalizes DIA's implementation of Senate File 394, which outlined the process for informal conferences on contested citations. Administrative rules to implement the 2013 legislation were adopted by the Department last September. The independent reviewers will start on February 3rd.

###