



Illinois Ethics Matters

December 11, 2024

oeig.illinois.gov

Honesty, Integrity, Service

A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies
of the Illinois Governor

Office of Executive Inspector General

Susan M. Haling
*Executive Inspector
General*

Neil P. Olson
General Counsel

Fallon Opperman
*Deputy Inspector
General & Chief of
Chicago Division*

Erin K. Bonales
*Director, Hiring &
Employment
Monitoring Division*

Christine Benavente
*Deputy Inspector
General-Executive
Projects*

Angela Luning
*Deputy Inspector
General & Acting
Chief of Springfield
Division*

Ogo Akpan
*Chief Fiscal Officer &
Chicago Operations
Manager*

To file a complaint
with the OEIG,
visit our website:

oeig.illinois.gov



Or call us at:
Main Line:
(312) 814-5600
Hotline:
(866) 814-1113

OEIG FY2024 Annual Report

The OEIG recently released its annual report for Fiscal Year 2024. As detailed in the report, the OEIG received and reviewed 3,035 complaints and self-initiated 96 investigations. In total, the OEIG opened 214 investigations, and completed 288 investigations, including 186 that involved findings of wrongdoing. In addition to these investigations, the OEIG also issued 81 hiring advisories; conducted 273 revolving door determinations; and oversaw ethics and harassment and discrimination training for over 172,000 employees. The OEIG has also worked proactively to build ethical cultures in the entities it oversees by training and recommending process changes. The OEIG FY2024 annual report is available [here](#).

PPP Investigations Project

As highlighted in the report, beginning in 2022, the OEIG self-initiated a large-scale investigation project into public employees who improperly obtained Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans during the COVID-19 pandemic. The PPP was administered by the federal government to provide relief to small businesses affected by the pandemic. Using publicly available databases, the OEIG matched the public information about the recipients of PPP loans with employees under its jurisdiction, and continued investigating those employees who had received loans in excess of \$20,000. Through the end of FY2024, the OEIG had conducted 374 investigations of potential PPP fraud. The OEIG issued reports making findings that employees obtained federal PPP loans based on falsified information in 305 cases, with a total of approximately \$8 million in public funds improperly awarded. The involved employees were from 18 different agencies. If employees were still employed by the State, the OEIG recommended their termination, and agencies accepted that recommendation and moved for discipline; many employees also resigned in lieu of termination. The annual report contains summaries of the 17 PPP cases published by the Executive Ethics Commission in FY2024, and full reports are available on the OEIG's website [here](#).

Working for the OEIG

The annual report also features the professional backgrounds and diversity of the OEIG staff. With respect to that staff, the OEIG has made significant strides in improving employee retention, as evidenced by the steady decline in its attrition rate in recent years. By 2022, attrition had dropped to 14%, and in both FY2023 and FY2024, the OEIG maintained a low attrition rate of 7%. OEIG staff have served the OEIG for an average of 5 years, and OEIG managers have served the OEIG for an average of 12 years. This low attrition rate continues despite the sizeable increase in complaints, investigations, and reports issued. This positive trend underscores the OEIG's commitment to retaining top talent and ensuring a stable and motivated workforce dedicated to upholding the integrity and mission of the office. For more information on the OEIG employee experience and for current job openings, please click [here](#).