



Illinois Ethics Matters

December 7, 2023

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Honesty, Integrity, Service

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

Office of Executive Inspector General

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Announcements

- The OEIG recently released its Annual Report for FY2023, available [here](#).

The 20-Year History of the OEIG

This year—2023—marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the OEIG. Throughout the past 20 years, the OEIG’s operations have continued to grow and develop, and its jurisdiction and duties have significantly expanded—including the following highlights.

The Creation of the OEIG (2003)

An inspector general for the agencies of the Illinois Governor was first created by Administrative Order 03-03, issued January 2003. The OEIG, as it is now known, was codified by the enactment of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (Ethics Act) in November 2003. Through the end of FY2023, the OEIG has received and processed approximately **42,799** complaints about misconduct.

Publication, Revolving Door Determinations, and Investigations (2009)

Public Act 99-00555, which was effective in August 2009, made several major changes to the Ethics Act.

Publication of Reports

The OEIG’s investigative reports were not publicly disseminated prior to the 2009 amendments. The amended Ethics Act provided a mechanism for the Executive Ethics Commission to publish the OEIG’s investigative reports, thus providing needed transparency to the process. These public reports are available on the OEIG’s website [here](#), and are searchable by involved agency, subject name, and type of misconduct.

Revolving Door Determinations

The legislation created a determination process for certain State employees likely to participate in contracting or regulatory activity to determine whether they can accept non-State employment. Since the inception of this RD process, the OEIG has made approximately **2,444** revolving door determinations.



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Self-Initiated and Anonymous Allegations

In addition, this legislation allowed the OEIG to self-initiate investigations and accept anonymous complaints. Those changes gave the OEIG greater flexibility to open investigations and ensure that complainants' identities are protected. The OEIG has self-initiated approximately **502** investigations and received **5,098** anonymous complaints.

Oversight of the Regional Transit Boards (2011)

The General Assembly perceived the need for increased and independent oversight over the Regional Transit Boards (RTBs) in the Chicago metro area (the Chicago Transit Authority, Metra, PACE, and the Regional Transportation Authority). Effective July 1, 2011, the RTBs came under the OEIG's jurisdiction.

Hiring & Employment Monitoring Division (2015)

In addition to identifying important hiring issues through its investigations, the OEIG recognized the need for a compliance role and thus, in 2015, created a compliance unit, HEM, to work directly with agencies to implement, monitor, and enforce proper State hiring practices and procedures. HEM's monitoring work helped the State reach substantial compliance and be released from the federal oversight of the *Shakman* decree in August 2022.

Sexual Harassment Prevention (2017)

In response to increased publicity about sexual harassment in the workplace, the General Assembly added sexual harassment as a specific violation of the Ethics Act in 2017. The OEIG was also given responsibility for reviewing annual sexual harassment training for State agencies, which was subsequently expanded to include discrimination and harassment prevention training.

The Modern and Changing Workplace (2020 and beyond)

The OEIG acted quickly to adapt to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The OEIG increased its technology systems to better facilitate remote working environments for all employees. In July 2021, the OEIG moved to a hybrid model of working to balance the benefits of employees being in the office, with the aim of maximizing efficiencies.

In July 2020, the OEIG formed an internal Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Working Group. It is comprised of OEIG employee volunteers who work together to make the office a more inclusive and equitable working environment that celebrates differences.

The OEIG looks forward to what new decades will bring for the growth and development of the OEIG and the State.