



Illinois Ethics Matters

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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

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*

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Hotline:
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Published OEIG Reports

The Executive Ethics Commission (EEC) recently publicly published several OEIG investigative reports that had been previously issued by the OEIG.

- Case No. 23-01321: An employee of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency was found to have engaged in inappropriate conduct by initiating and continuing communications of a sexual nature with a high school student intern. This report was issued on December 13, 2023, and is available [here](#).
- Case No. 21-00883: The OEIG investigated allegations that an Illinois Department of Human Services employee was working as a realtor during her State time. The OEIG found that the employee committed significant time abuse, including spending approximately 21% of her time on her personal cell phone during a three-month sample period. This report was issued on January 25, 2023, and is available [here](#).
- Case No. 22-01400: A senior employee of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy failed to notify the OEIG of prospective non-State employment as required by the Ethics Act's revolving door provisions, despite the fact that she was involved with the creation of the agency's "c-list." Revolving Door notification to the OEIG is a necessary component of compliance. This report was issued on September 16, 2022, and is available [here](#).

CTA Hiring Practices and Legislative Connections

Another case recently published by the EEC involved an investigation on hiring practices at the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). The OEIG self-initiated an investigation when it learned that two individuals related to the former Chair of the Illinois Senate Transportation Committee were hired into the CTA Legislative Affairs & Government and Community Relations Department (Legislative Affairs).

During the investigation, the OEIG discovered that the Legislative Affairs Department deviated from CTA's standard hiring processes and guidelines in order to hire individuals who had political connections in violation of CTA policies and applicable hiring laws. For instance, with respect to an Executive Assistant position, the applicant, who was a relation of the State Senator, was deemed to be qualified after initially being deemed unqualified, and the head of Legislative Affairs met with the applicant to discuss the position after she applied but before she was interviewed. During another hire for an intern, who was also a relation of the State Senator, the head of Legislative Affairs went outside the normal intern application procedures and had the intern proposal tailored to meet her background.

The OEIG found there was reasonable cause to believe the director of Legislative Affairs' actions discriminated against applicants by improperly influencing hiring processes intended to curry favor with then-Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee.

Case No. 19-02470, which was issued on May 6, 2022, is available [here](#).