



Illinois Ethics Matters

October 29, 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 Outreach

- Staff from the OEIG recently presented at the ethics officer conference hosted by the Executive Ethics Commission. Deputy Inspector General Diana Zuver participated in a panel about the annual responsibilities of an ethics officer. General Counsel Neil Olson co-presented on aspects of the revolving door prohibition in the Ethics Act.
- Executive Inspector General Susan Haling recently presented at the 2024 Illinois Government Auditing Conference focusing on the importance of conflicts of interest in the work of the OEIG and auditors.

PPP Investigations

The Executive Ethics Commission recently published 12 additional OEIG reports relating to Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) fraud by State employees, adding to the 17 that had been previously published. The cases involve employees at five different agencies under the OEIG's jurisdiction: the Department of Human Services, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Department of Natural Resources, and Pace. These reports (Case Nos. 22-02104, 22-02592, 22-03144, 22-03154, 23-00075, 23-00095, 23-00100, 23-00263, 23-00261, 23-00343, 23-00452 & 23-01772) are available on the OEIG website [here](#).

Hiring and Employment Monitoring Updates

The OEIG's Hiring and Employment Monitoring (HEM) Division recently released its quarterly report for the third quarter of calendar year 2024. One of HEM's required functions is reviewing the qualifications of those appointed to exempt positions to ensure they meet minimum requirements. HEM reminds agencies that an appointee's experience must be clear on the application or resume or accurately explained on the certification documentation. If agencies desire alternate experience, then the position's minimum requirements should be updated *prior* to the appointment. In this quarter, HEM reviewed and approved 74 exempt appointments. HEM also issued 24 advisories related to hiring practices to agencies. The HEM quarterly report is available [here](#).

As summarized in the HEM quarterly report, a hiring-related investigation was recently publicly released. The OEIG received a complaint alleging that a Stationary Fireman at the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) submitted an employment application with false qualifying information. During the investigation, the OEIG obtained various documents related to the employee's prior positions and interviewed former employers. During his OEIG interview, the employee acknowledged that there was a five-month discrepancy in dates of employment in his applications, and that it was possible that he did not have the required two years of experience operating high-pressure boilers. As a result of the investigation, the employee was terminated from IDOC employment. [Case No. 22-00077A](#) is available on the OEIG website.