



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

Claudia P. Ortega
Chief Administrative
Officer

Chicago Office:

69 W. Washington St.
Suite 3400
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 814-5600

Springfield Office:

607 E. Adams St.
14th Floor
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 558-5600

Hotline:

(866) 814-1113

TTY:

(888) 261-2734

Recent News

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to do its part to slow the spread of the virus, the OEIG has closed its offices to the public and OEIG employees are working remotely. However, the OEIG continues to accept complaints online, by telephone, or by mail, and to perform its other duties.

Hiring & Employment Monitoring Quarterly Report

On April 2, the OEIG released its first Hiring & Employment Monitoring Report for the initial quarter of 2020. The report describes the OEIG's investigative and compliance work regarding State hiring.

As contemplated by the current Comprehensive Employment Plan, the report provides summaries and data on Hiring & Employment Monitoring (HEM) Division activities conducted or completed between January 1 and March 31, 2020. This data includes the number of hiring sequences in which desk audits were completed (18), the number of sequences where interviews were monitored (7), and the number of term appointment renewals reviewed (13). Since November 2019, these compliance reviews resulted in the issuance of 32 Advisories, all of which are summarized within the report. The summaries identify the substance of the review, HEM's recommendations, and the agency's response.

The report also explains the process by which hiring complaints are vetted by the OEIG and discloses that the OEIG received 39 hiring-related complaints, referred 11 hiring-related complaints to HEM, and closed 3 hiring-related investigations this quarter. Of note, an OEIG hiring-related founded report made public this quarter is summarized in the report.

The report also addresses HEM's role in ensuring the integrity of the Exempt List, the comprehensive list of positions for which hiring decisions may be made on the basis of political or other non-merit factors. This quarter HEM reviewed 107 exempt appointment notifications and 153 exempt position description clarifications and received 9 Exempt List modification requests.

The report is available on the OEIG website [here](http://www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov).

Prohibited Political Activity Reminder

The Executive Ethics Commission recently issued a decision relating to an Illinois Department of Transportation employee who was found to have conducted prohibited political activity.

In its investigation, the OEIG found that the IDOT employee engaged in prohibited political activity by posting campaign-related posts on social media during compensated time, and then made false statements to the OEIG for the purpose of concealing his wrongdoing. In response to the investigation, IDOT imposed a 30-day suspension. Based on the parties' stipulation, the EEC determined the Ethics Act had been violated when the employee performed prohibited political activity during compensated time and failed to cooperate with the OEIG. The EEC imposed a fine of \$750.

State employees are reminded that they may not perform political activity when on State time or using State resources, *including when working remotely*.

The EEC's decision, [Haling v. McMechan \(20-EEC-004\)](http://www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov), is available on the OEIG's website.