



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

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Recent News

The OEIG is pleased to announce the following staff changes in June:

- **Leslie A. Strobel** joined the OEIG as an Assistant Inspector General in Chicago General Investigations;
- **Pat Foley** was promoted to Supervising Investigator in RTB Investigations and **William Parker** was promoted to Supervising Investigator in the Springfield office;
- **Luis Salinas** returned to the OEIG as an Investigator in Chicago General Investigations;
- **Andrew Besalke** returned to the OEIG as an Administrative Assistant in the HEM Division; and
- **Sean Sibley** joined the agency as an Investigative Intern in the Chicago office.

DHS Employee Disciplined for Condoning Fraud, Dishonesty or Misrepresentation



An OEIG investigation into whether a DHS employee failed to report a relative's improper receipt of benefits has resulted in disciplinary action. The OEIG found that DHS policy prohibits employees from "condon[ing] fraud, dishonesty, or misrepresentation in the performance of duties." DHS policy also provides that employees who "fail to report fraud ... may be guilty of administrative malfeasance."

Trina Diggs worked as a Public Aid Eligibility Assistant. A relative of hers received benefits from DHS. Ms. Diggs admitted to OEIG investigators that she knew both that the relative received benefits and that this relative needed to cancel his benefits. The relative received benefits that he may not have been entitled to, potentially as much as \$8,000.

The OEIG found that Ms. Diggs violated DHS policy by condoning fraud, dishonesty or misrepresentation in the performance of her duties, and engaged in administrative malfeasance when she failed to notify DHS that her relative was receiving DHS benefits.

The OEIG recommended DHS take disciplinary action. DHS issued a reprimand, and is also seeking recovery of the overpaid benefits. The report, *In re: Trina Diggs (Case #14-01975)* is available on the OEIG website.

Ethics Training Update

Over 51,000 employees of agencies of the governor have completed online ethics training for CY2016. Employees who did not train, for whatever reason, will need to come into compliance by the end of CY2016.

Members of boards and commissions are also required to complete dedicated ethics training each calendar year. As a reminder, certain board members are exempt from the requirement:

- Members and employees of the legislative branch are exempt by statute; and
- Persons who serve on boards as representatives of the judicial branch are exempt following an opinion of the Attorney General.

Board members are required to train only once each year, even if they serve on more than one board. Contact the OEIG with any questions about ethics training.