



Illinois Ethics Matters

July 20, 2020

www.inspectorgeneral.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*

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

- The OEIG is pleased to announce the return of **Stephanie Bogdan** as an Assistant Inspector General, the hiring of **Laurel Harnett** as a HEM Analyst, and the promotion of **Lorena Contreras** to Accounting Specialist.

Revolving Door Webinars Offer Guidance to Ethics Officers

In response to issues identified in OEIG investigations, the Governor's Office hosted a series of four webinars on the revolving door process in June. All ethics officers and general counsels were required to attend at least one of the webinars. The OEIG produced the content for the webinars, and staff from the OEIG and the Governor's Office conducted the sessions.

In addition to an overview of the revolving door provisions in Section 5-45 of the Ethics Act, the sessions focused on practical guidance for ethics officers relating to "c-list" employees. These designated employees must notify the OEIG prior to accepting non-State employment because of their roles in contracting, regulatory, or licensing decisions. The Governor's Office has charged ethics officers with creating and maintaining agency c-lists. The OEIG and Governor's Office recommend that required notice to c-list employees be part of the hiring or promotion process.

The webinars also addressed some common missteps by c-list employees:

- failing to notify the OEIG of any additional job offers within one year of leaving State employment;
- assuming that non-State employment will not be restricted because it is unrelated to State employment (notification is still required);
- notifying the OEIG *after* accepting a position; and,
- mistakenly believing that notification is not required for other governmental employment (for most employees, notification is not required only when the subsequent employment is with the State).

As detailed in last month's newsletter, violating the revolving door provisions carries a potential penalty of up to 3 times the improper compensation. A former State employee was recently fined more than \$193,000 for such violations.

HEM Continues Quarterly Reporting

The OEIG released its second Hiring & Employment Monitoring (HEM) Report on July 2, 2020. Produced quarterly, the reports provide an overview of the OEIG's work as it relates to State hiring and employment.

This past quarter, with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, which required that State agencies limit in-person interactions, the OEIG quickly adjusted its compliance strategies to a virtual setting. HEM continued to monitor interview sequences via teleconference or video conference and review hiring-related documentation remotely.

During the second quarter, HEM monitored 15 hiring sequences, completed 18 desk audits, and reviewed 18 term appointment positions. HEM also reviewed 70 exempt appointment notifications and 120 exempt position description clarifications and received 10 Exempt List addition or deletion requests. Since April 1, 2020, HEM has issued 27 Advisories, which are summarized in the report.

The quarterly HEM report is available on the OEIG website [here](#).