



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 that **Neil P. Olson** returned to the OEIG as General Counsel and **Cassandra Austin** began as an investigator; both are in Springfield.
- The OEIG is also pleased that in Chicago **Catherine Wasylenko** began as a Special Financial Investigator and **Madigan Ellis** began as an Investigative Intern. Also, **Diana Zuver** became Deputy Inspector General in the General Division, and **Colleen Thomas** was promoted to Deputy Inspector General in the Regional Transit Board Division.
- In addition to the case discussed below, the OEIG Investigative Reports [In re: Thompson \(Case #16-00712\)](#), [In re: Hursey, Huston & Norwood \(Case #16-00897\)](#), [In re: Mercer \(Case #17-00157\)](#), and [In re: Miller \(Case #17-00887\)](#) became public, and the EEC issued its decisions in [Haling v Flenoy \(18 EEC 005\)](#) and [Haling v Bartolomucci \(18 EEC 009\)](#).

OEIG Faults CMS, Governor's Office for Mismanagement of Exempt Hires



An OEIG investigation found that “Regional Client Manager” positions within the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) Bureau of Property Management (BOPM) were designated as 4d(3) exempt positions even though the incumbents were not performing exempt duties. Instead, they were performing a range of duties shared with positions that were not exempt under 4d(3), such as setting up chairs for events and ordering supplies for buildings to which they were assigned.

While the OEIG did not find evidence that the Governor’s Office placed individuals into these positions knowing they would not be performing exempt work, the OEIG found that the Governor’s Office and CMS failed to provide proper guidance and direction to agencies, and failed to ensure that employees in these positions were actually conducting exempt work. As noted by the OEIG, this was especially disconcerting in light of the fact that abuse of exempt positions was previously raised in the 2014 OEIG [Staff Assistant \(Case #11-01567\)](#) investigation and continues to be a focus of the ensuing federal [Shakman](#) litigation.

The Regional Client Manager positions were abolished as a result of the investigation. In addition, BOPM Deputy Director Josh Potts received a fourteen-day suspension and then-Acting CMS Director Michael Hoffman informed the Governor that he “intend[ed] to resign his position” after key CMS leadership positions had been filled and corrective action was initiated.

The release of this report comes as the OEIG Hiring and Employment Monitoring (HEM) Division continues to work closely with the [Shakman](#) monitor, and Governor’s Office and CMS staff, to review all exempt positions under the Governor’s jurisdiction to determine whether such positions have been properly designated exempt.

A copy of the OEIG report, [In re: CMS, et al., \(Case #15-02180\)](#), is available on the OEIG website.