



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 Executive Ethics Commission (EEC) recently issued four redacted final reports related to the following matters investigated by the OEIG. Below is a summary of the reports:

- **In re: Robert Couch**, 11-01196, involved a Department of Veterans' Affairs employee who misrepresented his employment history. Mr. Couch resigned his position.
- **In re: Robert Mileur**, 10-01246, involved an Environmental Protection Agency employee who engaged in various acts of misconduct. Mr. Mileur was suspended.
- **In re: Solomon Oriakhi**, 10-00464, involved a DHS employee who engaged in a conflict of interest and misused a State computer. Mr. Oriakhi is no longer a State employee.
- **In re: Litvak et al.**, 08-00310, involved a DHS employee who violated the Illinois Administrative Code by failing to follow sound fiscal standards regarding DHS's business relationship with a certain firm. Mr. Litvak and others were counseled.

The EEC also issued a decision regarding the Attorney General's appeal of an OEIG revolving door employment determination:

- **In re: April Lasker**, 12-EEC-006, the Commission agreed with the Illinois Attorney General's objection and vacated the OEIG's determination that Ms. Lasker was *not prohibited* from accepting certain employment. The EEC concluded that Ms. Lasker's proposed employment would violate the Ethics Act.

The OEIG is pleased to announce the appointment of a new employee:

- **Zachary Weinberg** will serve as administrative assistant in the OEIG's complaints and compliance division in Chicago. Zach is a graduate of DePaul University.

OEIG Staff Learn from Subject Matter Experts



Mr. Beckett

On March 14 and 15, 2012, all employees of the OEIG attended a training conference held in Urbana, Illinois. External speakers at the event included:

- **J. Steven Beckett**, Director of the Trial Advocacy Program, University of Illinois, College of Law;
- **Chad Fornoff**, Executive Director of the Executive Ethics Commission;
- **Chris Griffin**, Chief of Staff, **Debbie Hensey**, and

Wendi DeMarco, Bureau of Personnel, Illinois Department of Central Management Services;

- **Jeff Pentzien**, Assistant Bureau Chief, Bureau of Training, Department of Healthcare and Family Services; and
- **Scott Renfro**, Chief, Supreme Court Practice, Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission.

Topics addressed at the conference included the application of trial advocacy concepts, the anatomy of a *Rutan* personnel file, project management techniques, and rules of professional conduct for attorneys.

We thank those who readily offered their valuable time, allowing us to learn from their experience and expertise – including U of I law students Adam Field, J. R. Glenn, Paul Knight, and Jessica Rhoades, who assisted Mr. Beckett in a highly educational mock court session.

Ricardo Meza
Executive Inspector General

OEIG Website Updates

The OEIG's website now includes a "**New**" section that contains recent information, such as recent decisions of the EEC, recent news articles relating to OEIG matters, and recently released OEIG investigative reports or revolving door determinations.

The OEIG's Policy Manual, as recently approved by the Ethics Commission, may also be found under the site's *Reports and Publications* tab.

Steven Reinke
Supervisor
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Calendar of Events: March 27-30, 2012: Investigator Edward Escamilla and Assistant Inspectors General Fallon Opperman and Tiffany Stedman will attend Public Corruption Training, Dallas, Tx.