



# 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 hiring of **Teresa Tran** as External Training and Compliance Manager, and **Irem Arseven, Brady Bertrand,** and **Matthew Hanan** as Investigators in its Chicago office.

## Recently Released OEIG Investigations

### Revolving Door Applies to Municipal Employment

In OEIG Case #19-01254, the OEIG received an anonymous allegation that the former Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Director of the Office of Planning and Programming accepted a position as Executive Director of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) in violation of the Revolving Door provisions of the Ethics Act.

The investigation revealed the former director participated personally and substantially in the award of more than \$3 million in State grants to CMAP during the year preceding the termination of State employment. In addition, the employee, who was considered a “c-list” employee of the agency, failed to notify the OEIG of the employment offer from CMAP. The employee stated that she believed (erroneously) that the notification requirement only applied to private employment.

As a result of this investigation and others, the Governor’s Office and the OEIG administered training to all agency general counsels and ethics officers in June and September 2020. The training included addressing common issues regarding the Revolving Door provisions, including the misconception that the notification requirement only applies to “private employment.” The notification requirement applies to all “non-State” employment. The OEIG routinely reviews employment offers from federal, county, and municipal units of government for c-list employees.

The report, *In re: Erin Aleman (OEIG Case #19-01254)*, is available on the OEIG website.

### Falsification of Employment Application

In OEIG Case #19-02048, the OEIG opened an investigation after its Hiring & Employment Division (HEM), during its hiring review, identified that an Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice employee may have falsified a 2019 application for an Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) position by failing to disclose that she had previously been terminated by DCFS for cause in 1998.

After the transfer from the HEM unit, the OEIG investigation confirmed that the employee was discharged in 1998 for, among other things, making false statements and providing false testimony. The employee had similarly falsified State employment applications in 2011, 2013, and 2015 by indicating that she had been laid off rather than terminated. The employee claimed that her union had grieved the discharge, and later told her that she had been laid off. However, the union was unable to produce any records that her grievance was resolved, and the DCFS personnel file had no record of a layoff, which was confirmed by DCFS.

The employee received a 20-day suspension. A copy of the report, *In re: Ruthshell Walker (OEIG Case #19-02048)*, is available on the OEIG’s website.