



Illinois Ethics Matters

November 22, 2021

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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 **Kerrian Vernon-Lindsay** as an Investigator in its Chicago office, and the hiring of two new members of the Complaints and Compliance Division: **Jazmine Bowens** as an Intake Specialist and **Zahra Turner** as an Administrative Assistant.

Improper Law Enforcement Certification

A recent OEIG investigation led to the termination of the Executive Director of the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) over his issuance of a law enforcement certification to an individual who was not qualified to receive it.

The individual receiving the certification (hereafter “the Donor”) had made significant charitable donations to ILETSB and other law enforcement organizations. The Executive Director and ILETSB had also made requests to the Donor for funds.

In 2018, the Macon County Sheriff’s Office sought a waiver for the Donor so that he could serve as a part-time undersheriff. Although waivers had previously only been granted to officers who changed jobs and had been through the prescribed minimum standard basic training course or an equivalent training course out of state, the Donor was approved for a waiver by the Executive Director without having completed such a training course. In addition to approving the waiver, the Executive Director provided the Donor with a certification indicating that the Donor was certified to be a part-time law enforcement officer when, in fact, the Donor did not meet the requirements for certification.

At the conclusion of its three-month investigation, the OEIG found that the Executive Director engaged in mismanagement and malfeasance by improperly issuing the certification and issuing the waiver based on inappropriate factors. “Certification of law enforcement officer status, especially considering the significant public interest in maintaining integrity in that process, should not be minimized nor should it be provided based on someone’s ability to financially contribute, regardless of how great that assistance is, to the law enforcement community.”

The report, [In re: Brent Fischer \(OEIG Case #21-00826\)](#), is available on the OEIG website.

Prohibited Political Activity

The OEIG investigated allegations that a candidate for political office worked on her campaign during State time.

The OEIG investigation revealed that the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) employee, who was running for a school board, sent campaign-related emails to and from her State email, exploited State personnel to print campaign-related documents on State printers, and posted material related to her campaign on social media during State-compensated time.

As is covered in annual ethics training, using State resources for a political campaign or engaging in political activity on State time violates the Ethics Act. It also often, as here, violates agency policy. The UIC employee was terminated for this misconduct.

The report, [In re: Sandy Aguirre \(OEIG Case #19-00664\)](#), is available on the OEIG website.