



# 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

## Office of Executive Inspector General

**Ricardo Meza**  
Executive  
Inspector General

**David Keahl**  
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**Kristy Shores**  
First Deputy Inspector  
General

**Daniel Hurtado**  
General Counsel

**Laura K. Bautista**  
Deputy Inspector  
General & Chief of  
Springfield Division

**Fallon Opperman**  
Deputy Inspector  
General & Chief of  
Regional Transit Board  
Division

**Chicago Office:**  
69 W. Washington St.  
Suite 3400  
Chicago, IL 60602  
(312) 814-5600

**Springfield Office:**  
607 E. Adams St.  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 558-5600

**Hotline:**  
Phone: (866) 814-1113

**TTY:**  
(888) 261-2734

## Recent News

On September 18, 2014, the following investigative report was publicly disclosed:

- *In re: Barnes*, 11-00696, involved a DHS employee who approved state benefits for friends and relatives.
- *OEIG FY 2014 Annual Report* released. See article below.

## Prohibited Political Activity Reminder



In light of the upcoming November 4, 2014 General Election, state employees should remember that the Ethics Act limits certain political activities by state employees.

State employees are welcome to support or oppose candidates or ballot questions but under state law are required to do so on their own time and using their own resources. Employees are generally prohibited from engaging in political activity on state-compensated time, other than vacation, personal, or compensatory time off or from misappropriating state resources to engage in political activity. Since 2008, twenty-one OEIG investigations regarding political activity have led to monetary fines. These investigations revealed state employees who:

- sent political emails through a state email account, or sent political emails during state work hours, which resulted in fines totaling \$14,650;
- performed political work during state-compensated work hours, which resulted in fines totaling \$11,000;
- used a state vehicle for political work, which resulted in a fine of \$100; and
- attended a political gathering on compensated time, which resulted in a \$2,500 fine.

In addition, the Criminal Code forbids state employees with regulatory or licensing authority from soliciting or accepting contributions to candidates for elective office from entities whom those state employees regulate or license.

If, as a state employee, you have any questions regarding restrictions on political activities, please confer with your agency's ethics officer.

**David Morrison**

*Director of Ethics Training and Compliance*

## OEIG's FY2014 Annual Report Released—Year in Review

In FY 2014, the OEIG evaluated and processed more than 2,500 complaints of wrongdoing. In addition, the OEIG:

- opened 85 investigations;
- concluded 91 investigations;
- completed 146 revolving door determinations;
- conducted 16 hiring-related investigations; and
- oversaw more than 190,000 ethics training sessions.

These accomplishments are explained in our FY 2014 Annual Report, which is being distributed to key stakeholders and is available in PDF format on the OEIG's website. Among its other content, the report summarizes all:

- publicly disclosed investigative reports;
- revolving door appeal decisions; and
- EEC disciplinary decisions.

The annual report also outlines the operational and financial performance of the office.

**Ricardo Meza**

*Executive Inspector General*

**Calendar of Events:** October 20, 2014: AIG Donaldson will attend a training offered by the Office of the Governor; October 22-24, 2014: Various OEIG staff will attend the 2014 AIG training in Newark, New Jersey; and October 29-30, 2014: Director of Ethics Training & Compliance Morrison will attend a computer training.