



Illinois Ethics Matters

October 15, 2020

www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov

Honesty, Integrity, Service

A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies
of the Illinois Governor

Office of Executive Inspector General

Susan M. Haling
*Executive Inspector
General*

Neil P. Olson
General Counsel

Fallon Opperman
*Deputy Inspector
General & Chief of
Chicago Division*

Erin K. Bonales
*Director, Hiring &
Employment
Monitoring Division*

Christine Benavente
*Deputy Inspector
General-Executive
Projects*

Angela Luning
*Deputy Inspector
General & Acting
Chief of Springfield
Division*

Claudia P. Ortega
*Chief Administrative
Officer*

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

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

Hotline:
(866) 814-1113

TTY:
(888) 261-2734

Recent News

- The OEIG is pleased to announce the hiring of **Alex White** as an Investigator, **Grace Donovan** and **Nancy Jack** as Assistant Inspectors General, and **Gina Rosas** as Human Resources Supervisor. **Frank Sohn** also returned to the office as an Assistant Inspector General.
- OEIG staff will present at the Executive Ethics Commission's virtual conference for ethics officers on November 12 and 13, 2020.

HEM Reports on Continued Hiring Reform

The OEIG released its third Hiring & Employment Monitoring (HEM) Quarterly Report on October 13, 2020. To increase transparency, these quarterly reports provide an overview of the OEIG's work related to reforming State hiring processes.

As detailed, HEM assisted in developing training modules or materials for State agencies on topics including the proper vetting of potential conflicts of interest, appropriate use and documentation of temporary assignments at IDOT, and compliance with the Comprehensive Employment Plan (CEP). HEM's Director also co-presented at the CMS initiated State-wide CEP training sessions, which will continue into the next quarter.

This past quarter, the OEIG has continued all its compliance work virtually: HEM monitored 17 hiring sequences, completed 10 desk audits, and reviewed 18 term appointment positions. HEM also reviewed 71 exempt appointment notifications and 119 exempt position description clarifications, and received five Exempt List addition requests. Since July 1, 2020, HEM has issued 23 Advisories, which are summarized in the report and detail instances where agencies improved their hiring processes as a result of HEM's recommendations. The quarterly HEM report is available on the OEIG website [here](#). Questions regarding State hiring can also be directed to HEM's mailbox, OEIG.HEM@illinois.gov.

Prohibited Political Activity Reminder

With the general election less than a month away, the OEIG reminds State employees of the restrictions in the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act on political activity.

In general, State employees may not conduct prohibited political activity during compensated State time or using State resources. In addition, State employees are prohibited from soliciting campaign contributions on State property.

Prohibited political activity is broadly defined in the Ethics Act, but generally means actions in support of a campaign for elective office or referendum question. Because prohibited political activity cannot be performed on compensated time, the limitation still applies while an employee is working remotely and on the clock.

Fines issued for violations of the prohibited political activity have reached the highest permissible under the Ethics Act: \$5,000. Ethics Act decisions by the Executive Ethics Commission are available and searchable on the OEIG's website [here](#).

If you have questions regarding political activity as a State employee, please consult your ethics officer. A list of ethics officers is available [here](#).