



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 that **Heather Datoli and Sara LaBeck** recently began as Administrative Assistants in the Complaints & Compliance Division.
- In addition to the reports discussed below, the Executive Ethics Commission also recently released two other OEIG founded reports: [In re: James Aubin, Robert Capuani, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal \(Case #17-00769\)](#) and [In re: Marlene Meriwether and John Rogers \(Case #17-00213\)](#).

IDOT to End Free Sox Parking



The Executive Ethics Commission released a founded OEIG report regarding the use of the Illinois Department of Transportation Emergency Traffic Patrol (ETP) parking lot near Guaranteed Rate Field, the home of the Chicago White Sox, for gameday parking.

The OEIG investigation was prompted by an ETP employee offering gameday parking to OEIG staff and continued after initial surveillance confirmed that the ETP lot was being used by individuals attending White Sox home games.

After further surveillance, the OEIG found that both State employees and people not employed by the State were regularly parking in the ETP lot for games, thus allowing them to avoid paying for parking. Of note, recent emails suggested that these privileges should only be extended to IDOT and ISP employees, Governor's Office staff, and State legislators.

The OEIG concluded that the practice violated IDOT policy, and increased the opportunities for waste, fraud, abuse, and conflicts of interest. The OEIG recommended that IDOT cease allowing the use of the ETP lot for White Sox parking. In response to the report, IDOT agreed to end the practice.

A copy of the report, [In re: Illinois Department of Transportation \(Case #18-01118\)](#), is available on the OEIG website.

ALJ Fails to Report Potential Conflict of Interest

The OEIG investigated a complaint alleging that Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge Katherine Patti issued favorable decisions to Amari & Locallo, a law firm that represents clients before PTAB, when her relative worked there.

The OEIG investigation revealed that Ms. Patti facilitated the hire of a relative at Amari & Locallo, and that during the relative's employment, Ms. Patti assigned herself to 261 cases in which the firm was representing a party. Ms. Patti did not disclose to anyone at PTAB that her relative was working at Amari & Locallo, or that she had facilitated the relative's hire.

The OEIG determined that Ms. Patti violated PTAB policy by failing to report a potential conflict of interest caused by her relative's hire at the firm. However, it did not find evidence sufficient to conclude that she improperly favored the firm.

In response to the report, PTAB held a counseling session with Ms. Patti, and agreed to revise its conflicts of interest policy to include a specific process for recusals.

A copy of the report, [In re: Katherine Patti \(Case #18-01567\)](#), is available on the OEIG website.