



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 **Stephanie Bogdan** and **Rachel Shapiro** began as Assistant Inspectors General in the Chicago office.
- In addition to matters discussed below, the OEIG investigation (*In re: Turner, Case #14-01146*) became public and is available on the OEIG website.

State Employee Fined \$1,000 by EEC for Engaging in Prohibited Political Activity



The OEIG filed a complaint with the EEC alleging that Shirley Slusser, an employee of the Illinois State Police, violated the Ethics Act's prohibition of certain political activities on State time or using State resources. The OEIG alleged that Ms. Slusser used State photocopiers to make 50 copies of four different political fliers in September, 2014, and that, several days later, she made 20 copies of a fifth flier. She distributed the fliers by placing them on her co-workers' desktops. Some of this copying and/or distribution took place during her regularly scheduled work hours.

The Ethics Act prohibits State employees from "intentionally perform[ing] any prohibited political activity during compensated time..." It also prohibits the "intentional[] misappropriat[ion] of any State property or resources by engaging in any prohibited political activity..."

Ms. Slusser argued that the fliers were mere issue advocacy, were not specific to any candidate for elective office, and constituted collective bargaining. The EEC found that the fliers named a specific political candidate and in capital letters urged readers to "STOP" the candidate. Consequently, the EEC found that the fliers "can only be reasonably interpreted as an effort to influence the outcome of the election"

The EEC concluded that Ms. Slusser violated the Ethics Act and levied a fine of \$1,000. The EEC decision, *Hickey v Slusser (16-EEC-006)*, is available on the OEIG website.

OEIG Finds Metra Board Members Received Improper Compensation

The Regional Transportation Authority Act (RTA Act) prohibits the Chairman and Directors of Metra from receiving "any compensation from any elected or appointed office under the Constitution and laws of Illinois" while serving on the Metra board.

An investigation by the OEIG determined that former Metra Chairman Brad O'Halloran and former Metra board member Mike McCoy were compensated by units of local government for their service as local public officials, in violation of the RTA Act.

The OEIG recommended that the Office of the Governor and Metra ensure that all Metra board members are aware of and abide by the prohibition while serving on the Metra board. In response, Metra said they would emphasize this issue in training and require new board members to certify their understanding. A copy of the report (*In re: O'Halloran & McCoy, Case #13-01519*) is available on the OEIG website.