Gov. Bruce Rauner appointed Susan Haling to serve as Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor. EIG Haling will serve in an acting capacity pending Senate confirmation. Prior to this appointment, Ms. Haling was the First Assistant at the OEIG. In addition, Ms. Haling worked for more than nine years as an assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois, where she tried over 20 criminal cases to verdict. Ms. Haling also previously worked for the U.S. Justice Department, Criminal Division in Washington, D.C.

DHS Caseworker Penalized for Misreporting Time Serving as Personal Assistant

An OEIG investigation at the Department of Human Services (DHS) found that a DHS employee fraudulently overbilled the state for time spent as a DHS Division of Rehabilitation Services Home Services Program Personal Assistant aiding her mother’s health care.

The DHS employee filed time sheets for her hours working as a DHS Caseworker and for her time as a Personal Assistant. In her interview with OEIG investigators, the DHS employee admitted that she billed DHS as a Personal Assistant for time she was not actually helping her mother, including time she was working as a DHS Caseworker or running her own personal errands. The DHS employee admitted that many of the Personal Assistant time sheet entries she submitted were false.

The OEIG recommended that DHS terminate the employee and seek to recoup all misappropriated funds. In response, the DHS employee resigned during the disciplinary proceedings and DHS has begun to recover the misappropriated funds.

A copy of the report, In re: Jones (Case #15-01772) can be found on the OEIG website.

Employee Sanctioned for Political Use of State Databases

Nathan Maddox, the Executive Inspector General for the Secretary of State (EIG), brought the following action. As a reminder, the same statutes and principles apply to all employees under the Executive Ethics Commission (EEC).

A Public Service Representative (PSR) at a Secretary of State driver’s license facility also served as an elected official in his village. The EIG determined that the PSR had accessed driver’s license records of a competing candidate and the candidate’s political party.

The PSR gave misleading answers to EIG investigators before admitting to misusing the databases for political aims.

The Secretary of State terminated the PSR, and the EIG filed a complaint with the EEC through the Attorney General. The EEC found the PSR had violated the Ethics Act by engaging in prohibited political activity and failing to cooperate with the EIG, and levied a fine of $1,250.

A copy of the decision, Maddox v Wesseler, is available on the EEC website.