



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 changes to its staff effective August 18, 2014:

- **Colleen Thomas** will serve as an Assistant Inspector General.
- **Noel Georgett** will serve as an administrative assistant.

Five Years of Hiring Investigations by the OEIG



Five years ago, the legislature amended the Ethics Act to expand the jurisdiction of the Office of Executive Inspector General. Public Act 96-555, signed into law on August 18, 2009, required the OEIG “[t]o review hiring and employment files of each State agency within the Executive Inspector General’s jurisdiction to ensure compliance with *Rutan v. Republican Party of Illinois* . . . and with all applicable employment laws.” (5 ILCS 430/20-20(9)).

“Ensuring that hiring and promotions are made in the best interests of the state and in compliance with state and federal laws is one of the key functions of my office.”

- **Executive Inspector General Ricardo Meza**

In more than 90 instances, the OEIG did find evidence of hiring improprieties. Some of these findings have been publicly disclosed, including for example:

- ***In re: Godinez and Buscher***: The Department of Corrections violated its own agency policy by hiring an employee that lacked the required qualifications.
- ***In re: Devlin et al.***: Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity employees violated the Personnel Code and an administrative order related to *Rutan*.
- ***In re: Sarmiento, et al.***: Department of Human Services employees failed to fully implement aspects of an administrative order relating to *Rutan*-covered positions.
- ***In re: Miller***: A Department of Veterans Affairs employee violated administrative and executive orders by failing to properly interview candidates for *Rutan*-covered positions.
- ***In re: Phelps, et al.***: A Department of Transportation employee engaged in hiring improprieties, including violating an administrative order related to *Rutan*, in the course of a summer hiring program.
- ***In re: Bennett***: A Department of Human Services employee falsified documents in order to obtain employment for her son.

In addition, the OEIG has also investigated numerous other allegations of misconduct relating to state agency hiring practices; however, much of this work has not been made public because the Ethics Act does not provide for the disclosure of reports in which misconduct is unfounded.

In any event, monitoring of state agency hiring practices continues to be one of the OEIG’s primary duties and we will continue to devote resources to evaluating those practices, identifying potential improprieties, and performing investigations when necessary.

Christine Benavente
Legislative Assistant Inspector General

Calendar of Events: *August 19, 2014:* Various OEIG attorneys will attend a CLE training on revolving door issues and DIG Bautista will attend a management training. *August 21, 2014:* Administrative Assistant Jefferson and IT Supervisor Reinke will attend telecom training. *August 26, 2014:* IT Supervisor Reinke will attend computer training. *September 17, 2014:* Various OEIG staff will attend Excel training.