



# Illinois Ethics Matters

December 14, 2012

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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

One OEIG final investigative report was publicly released on December 3, 2012:

- **In re: Ronald Smith and Christine Rothwell**, 11-01879, involved two employees of the Department of Juvenile Justice who violated policies controlling the use of state vehicles. Mr. Smith was suspended for three days and was counseled regarding the use of state vehicles. Ms. Rothwell was counseled for her own misuse of a separate state vehicle.

In other news, the OEIG is pleased to announce the appointment of:

- **Spiridoula “Litza” Mavrothalasitis**, who will serve as assistant inspector general in the Chicago general investigative division. Litza is a graduate of Northwestern University and holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan.

## OEIG Launches: Grant Review Initiative Team



The OEIG has created a Grant Review Initiative Team (GRIT) to investigate waste, fraud, or misuse of grants administered by state agencies.

Earlier this year, the Illinois House Human Services and State Government Administration committees held a public hearing resulting from a joint OEIG investigation relating to a service provider that had received more than \$18 million in state grants, primarily from DCFS. Among its other findings, the OEIG determined that a lack of state agency oversight allowed the service provider to receive funds for services it had not provided.

“Millions of taxpayer dollars are spent on state grants without enough accountability and oversight. Although much of state grant money may be properly used for worthwhile causes, we must ensure that all state funds are used for their intended purpose, particularly in light of our State’s fiscal crisis.” - **Ricardo Meza**

Initially, GRIT will consist of six investigators from the OEIG’s Springfield and Chicago staff. GRIT members include: Supervising Investigators Donald Meeks and Brandon Myers and Investigators Amber Range, Tiffany Pryor-Wallace, Pat Foley, and Tammy Clark. GRIT has over 100 combined years of investigative experience. *See* The OEIG’s website for a related press release.

**Erin Bonales & Neil P. Olson**  
Deputy Inspectors General,  
Chiefs—Chicago and Springfield Divisions

## (Former) IDOT Employee is Fined \$4,000

On December 3, 2012, the Executive Ethics Commission (EEC) publicly released its decision in **Meza v. Clayton**, 11-EEC-012. The EEC fined former Illinois Department of Transportation employee **Danny Clayton** \$4,000 for:

- making false statements to OEIG investigators; and
- asking another IDOT employee to make untrue statements to the OEIG.

Mr. Clayton had been interviewed by the OEIG as part of an investigation into a 2009 summer jobs program. As a consequence of that investigation, IDOT terminated Mr. Clayton’s employment.

In reaching its decision to levy its fine against Mr. Clayton, the EEC stated, “In aggravation, [Mr. Clayton] attempted to involve another State employee in his deception, and has cost the State considerable resources in investigating and prosecuting this matter.”

**Cole S. Kain**  
Chief of Staff &  
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**Calendar of Events: December 14, 2012:** EIG Ricardo Meza and DIGs Olson and Bonales will meet with the Pantagraph Editorial Board, Bloomington, IL; **January 10-11, 2013:** OEIG Assistant Inspector General and Investigator in-house training, Bloomington, IL; and **January 14, 2013** (tentative): Special Counsel Dan Hurtado will be a presenter for an Illinois Department of Human Rights all-staff training.