



# Illinois Ethics Matters

December 19, 2011

[www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov](http://www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov)

*Honesty, Integrity, Service*

A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies  
of the Illinois Governor

## Office of Executive Inspector General

**Ricardo Meza**  
Executive  
Inspector General

**Cole S. Kain**  
Chief of Staff &  
General Counsel

**Erin K. Bonales**  
Deputy Inspector General  
& Chief of Chicago  
Division

**Neil P. Olson**  
Deputy Inspector General  
& Chief of Springfield  
Division

**James J. Bonk**  
Chief of Regional Transit  
Board Investigative  
Division

**Rochelle Hardy**  
Chief Financial &  
Compliance Officer

**David Keahl**  
Director of Ethics  
Training & Compliance

**Wendy Washington**  
Director of Human  
Resources

**Chicago Office:**  
32 W. Randolph Street  
Suite 1900  
Chicago, IL 60601  
(312) 814-5600

**Springfield Office:**  
607 E. Adams Street  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 558-5600

**Hotline:**  
Phone: (866) 814-1113

**TTY:**  
(888) 261-2734

## Recent News

The General Assembly has provided the OEIG with up to \$2 million in additional funding in order to perform its duties as inspector general for the regional transit boards. *See article below for additional details.*

The OEIG is pleased to announce the appointment of two new staff members:

- **Susan Haling** serves as Special Counsel. Susan is a former Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and brings a wealth of investigative experience to the OEIG.
- **Michael Cook** serves as Deputy Director of Ethics Training and Compliance. Michael has experience in public administration at local and state levels, and most recently served as Integration and Training Coordinator for the Illinois workNet program.

In light of our additional funding, please visit our website ([www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov](http://www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov)) to view recently posted OEIG employment opportunities in Chicago and Springfield. Please also note that the website is frequently updated and we encourage you to visit it often.

## The OEIG is Provided up to \$2 Million in Additional Funds for Investigations of Regional Transit Boards



employees.

An amendment to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, effective July 1, 2011, extended the OEIG's jurisdiction to encompass the four northeastern Illinois regional transit boards (the Regional Transportation Authority, the Chicago Transit Authority, Metra, and Pace) and their 15,000 employees.

Recent legislation (SB1311 and SB2412), was passed by the General Assembly on November 29, 2011. The new legislation provides up to \$2 million in public transportation funds to be used by the OEIG to function as inspector general for the regional transit boards.

“We appreciate the General Assembly’s support of the investigative work OEIG staff performs for Illinois citizens. As a direct result of the infusion of additional resources, we have established a new investigative division. This division is dedicated to investigate and initiate matters involving waste, fraud, abuse, as well as management misconduct, involving one or more of the transit boards.”

– Executive Inspector General **Ricardo Meza**

**James Bonk** has been tapped to serve as Chief of Regional Transit Board Investigative Division. The new division will initially consist of Assistant Inspectors General as well as five investigators. Other OEIG investigative staff assigned to head divisions include Deputy Inspector General **Erin Bonales**, who will lead the Chicago Division, and Deputy Inspector General **Neil Olson**, who will lead the Springfield office and division.

**Cole S. Kain**  
Chief of Staff and General Counsel

## Cooperation in OEIG Investigations

It is the duty of every officer and employee under the jurisdiction of the OEIG to cooperate in OEIG investigations. Generally, this includes, but is not limited to, not making false statements or intentional omissions when interviewed by investigators. In addition, as part of the duty to cooperate, investigators request that witnesses and subjects not inappropriately disclose to others information learned during the course of an interview or the existence of the investigation itself.

Officers and employees are not, however, prevented from seeking private legal counsel or exercising other rights under the law. Additional information relating to subject rights is contained in: *Executive Inspector General Investigations: Your Duties and Rights* (2008), at:

[http://www2.illinois.gov/eec/Documents/EMPLOYEE\\_RIGHTS-BRO.pdf](http://www2.illinois.gov/eec/Documents/EMPLOYEE_RIGHTS-BRO.pdf).

**Neil P. Olson**  
Deputy Inspector General &  
Chief of Springfield Division

**Calendar of Events:** January 10-13, 2012 DIG Kristy Shores will attend Inspector General Academy Hotline Operator Training, Leesburg, VA; March 14-15, 2012: OEIG staff training, Champaign, IL; March 27-30, 2012: Investigator Edward Escamilla will attend Inspector General Academy Public Corruption Training, Glynco, GA.