



# Illinois Ethics Matters

July 18, 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

**James J. Bonk**  
Director of Investigations

**Neil P. Olson**  
Deputy Director & Chief  
of Springfield 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:**  
(866) 814-1113

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

## Recent News

The Executive Ethics Commission (EEC) recently released a decision and issued additional redacted final reports related to the following matters investigated by the OEIG:

- *Meza v. Carolyn Brown Hodge*, 11-EEC-008, involved a former Office of the Governor Deputy Chief of Staff who engaged in prohibited political activities in violation of the Ethics Act. Ms. Brown Hodge resigned her State position and was fined \$1,000 by the EEC.
- *In re: Wilmer Caraballo*, 09-00645, involved an IDOT employee who abused State time and violated secondary employment policy. Mr. Caraballo was suspended without pay for one week.
- *In re: James Cockrell*, 09-00772, involved an Illinois Capital Development Board employee who engaged in personal business on State time, among other things. Mr. Cockrell was suspended without pay for five working days.
- *In re: Scott Flood*, 09-00508, involved a former Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources employee who abused State time, and misused State resources, among other things. Mr. Flood agreed to resign.
- *In re: Mary Alice Stouffe*, 10-00257, involved a DHS employee who abused State time and misused State resources. Ms. Stouffe was suspended without pay for 30 days.

We encourage individuals to visit the OEIG website to read the full reports and decisions.

## Reduction of Pending (Open) OEIG Investigations



day in FY 2011, there were 264 open investigations. By June 30, 2011, the last day in FY 2011, the number of open investigations had been reduced to 102, which represents a reduction of over 60%. This reduction occurred at the same time the number of new allegations increased significantly. In FY 2010, the OEIG received 1,100 allegations of wrongdoing but the number increased to over 2,000 allegations in FY 2011.

The OEIG, with its limited resources, is committed to conducting objective, thorough, and timely investigations. We will continue to evaluate investigative priorities and processes in an effort to meet agency expectations and our new responsibilities related to the regional transit boards. The entire OEIG staff is dedicated to identifying and eliminating waste, fraud, or misconduct.

**James J. Bonk**  
Director of Investigations

## OEIG In the News

In Fiscal Year 2011, OEIG staff reduced the total number of pending (open) investigations. On July 1,

Recently, investigative reports and EEC decisions involving OEIG investigations were covered by the news media, including, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Daily Herald*, and *Belleville News Democrat*. The media stories underscore the importance of work OEIG staff conducts on behalf of the State. The articles related to:

- the Carolyn Brown Hodge EEC decision, and
- the Scott Flood investigation.

In addition, the *Daily Herald* referred to the OEIG in its July 8, 2011 editorial. On July 13, 2011, the *Chicago Tribune* published an OEIG letter to the editor. On July 15, 2011, Executive Inspector General Meza, Chief of Staff and General Counsel Cole Kain and Legislative AIG Jessica Reese met with the *Daily Herald* editorial board—the same day, the *Daily Herald* published an OEIG letter to the editor. Links to the articles and editorial letters are posted on our website on the Newsletter\News page.

**Ricardo Meza**  
Executive Inspector General

**Calendar of Events:** July 20, 2011 - Director of Investigations James Bonk will participate in an Association of Inspectors General Illinois Chapter board meeting. September 28, 2011 - Executive Inspector General Ricardo Meza will be speaking to the State of Illinois Internal Audit Advisory Board. September 2011 - Release of OEIG's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2011.