



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

On July 28, 2014, the EEC issued a disciplinary decision:

- **Meza v. Rednour and Bliefnick**, 14-EEC-006, involved Department of Agriculture employees fined \$5,000 and \$1,000 respectively for violating the Ethics Act's gift ban.

On July 28, 2014, in addition to the matter discussed in the article below, the following investigative report relating to Metra was publicly disclosed:

- **In re: Lt. Laith El-Talabani**, 13-01848, involved a Metra police lieutenant who took ethics training in place of his coworkers in violation of the Ethics Act.

In other news, the OEIG is pleased to announce that:

- **Joshua I. Grant** has been promoted to Deputy Inspector General in the Chicago Division, effective July 14, 2014.
- The Office of Illinois Attorney General will seek to represent the OEIG in federal court as *amicus curiae* in **Shakman v. Democratic Organization of Cook County et al.**

Investigation of False Metra Safety Records



On July 28, 2014, an OEIG investigation involving Metra, namely **In re: Metra Managers and Staff**, 11-01032, was publicly disclosed. The OEIG found that a longstanding Metra practice, which even current **Executive Director Don Orseno** was fully aware of, directly resulted in the improper completion of federally mandated hours of service logs by Metra conductors or engineers.

“Our investigation put an end to an unfettered practice Metra and its employees referred to as ‘swapping,’” stated **Executive Inspector General Ricardo Meza**

The OEIG recommended that Metra:

- ensure that employees accurately log hours;
- end its so-called “swapping” practice;
- discipline employees who incorrectly logged their hours of service; and
- take appropriate action regarding senior managers.

The OEIG's redacted Final Report and a related press release, as well as a Federal Railroad Administration close-out letter, are all available on the OEIG's website.

Fallon Opperman
Deputy Inspector General &
Chief of Regional Transit Division

EEC Clarifies Meaning of “Regulatory Decision”

The EEC revolving door decision regarding **Anthony Mayville**, 14-EEC-10, issued June 26, 2014 affirmed the OEIG's determination that, prior to his termination in April 2014, Mr. Mayville did not participate “personally and substantially” in a regulatory decision that directly applied to his prospective employer.

The EEC found that “the promulgation of rules [as] described in the pleadings does not constitute a regulatory decision that directly applied to [his prospective employer] or its parent or subsidiaries as contemplated by the Ethics Act.”

The latter finding is significant because it appears to clarify that participation in the promulgation of generally applicable rules does not constitute a “regulatory or licensing decision that directly applied” to the prospective employer.

Daniel Hurtado
General Counsel

Calendar of Events: July 31, 2014: Admin. Asst. Jefferson and IT Supervisor Reinke will attend computer training.