



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

A settlement agreement relating to an OEIG investigation was disclosed on April 23, 2014:

- **In re: Meza v. Barry Maram**, 13-EEC-006. See article below.

The OEIG is pleased to announce changes to its staff effective April 28, 2014:

- **Amina Khan** will serve as an assistant inspector general in the RTB investigative division
- **Samantha Martirano** and **Joseph Allen** will serve as investigators in the general investigative division
- **Julia Kieler** will serve as an administrative assistant to the chief of staff & director of ethics training & compliance

OEIG-Supported Transparency and Ethics Bills Go Nowhere for the 4th Straight Year



Although the OEIG is pleased to report that a bill (SB 3056, House Amendment 1) aimed at transparency and ethics among transit agencies is on track for passage this year, it now appears that, for the 4th year in a row, the General Assembly will not be passing any

OEIG-supported legislation amending the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act. This session, the OEIG supported bills that would:

- increase public disclosure of final reports (HB 4746); and
- allow the Executive Inspector General to disclose investigative files to an agency head if a risk to public safety was identified (HB 4747).

In addition, although the OEIG supported legislative changes stemming from recommendations of the Northeastern Illinois Public Transit Task Force Report—our recommendations concerning the public transit entities will also not be implemented in this legislative cycle.

“We are extremely disappointed that OEIG-supported bills continue to be held up. This inaction sends the wrong message to Illinois citizens about the value of ethics and transparency.”

- **Executive Inspector General Ricardo Meza**

The OEIG will continue to support transparency and ethics-related legislation and we remain hopeful that members of the General Assembly will eventually allow OEIG-supported bills to proceed.

Christine Benavente

Legislative Assistant Inspector General

\$100,000 Settlement Reached

On April 23, 2014, a settlement agreement was approved between the Office of Illinois Attorney General, on behalf of the OEIG, and former Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services Director **Barry Maram**. Under the terms of the settlement, Mr. Maram agreed to pay the state \$100,000 to settle charges alleging he violated the revolving door provisions of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

This is the largest sum ever paid by an alleged violator of the revolving door provisions of the Ethics Act. The OEIG is committed to upholding the revolving door provisions of the Ethics Act.

Copies of the Maram settlement agreement, the OEIG final summary report, and related filings and rulings issued by the Executive Ethics Commission may be found on the OEIG website.

Daniel Hurtado
General Counsel

Calendar of Events: May 30, 2014: Supv. Investigator Leh and Investigator Kosik will attend Excel training; and June 13, 2014: EIG Meza will participate in a panel discussion and various OEIG investigators will attend professional skills training at the Assoc. of Inspectors General Illinois Chapter conference.

Correction: The April 2014 edition of this newsletter incorrectly stated that Clyde Redfield was terminated when it should have stated that he resigned.