



OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
FOR THE AGENCIES OF THE ILLINOIS GOVERNOR

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EXECUTIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**OEIG Releases Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report**

CHICAGO – Executive Inspector General James A. Wright Thursday announced the release of the Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report of the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor (“OEIG”). This fourth agency annual report discloses investigation results and ethics training activities conducted between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009.

The report is available to the public only by download. A copy of this report can be obtained from the OEIG web site: [http://inspectorgeneral.il.gov/annual\\_reports.htm](http://inspectorgeneral.il.gov/annual_reports.htm).

During FY '09 the OEIG worked on 364 investigations and completed 184 of them. Of the completed investigations, 90 complaints were found to have merit and 73 were unfounded.

“The success of the OEIG depends upon honest and courageous complainants who come forward to provide solid information and/or evidence of misconduct by State employees, vendors, and contractors,” said Wright. “We stand with those State workers, vendors, and members of the public who are demonstrating their disgust with the individuals and/or entities engaged in misconduct,” he said.

In addition, the OEIG reports that since July 2005, of its own initiative, the Office has referred approximately 300 cases to outside law enforcement agencies for possible criminal investigation and prosecution. Of those cases, 41 were referred to the Illinois district offices of the U.S. Attorney, the FBI, and to other federal law enforcement agencies; 74 were referred to the Office of Attorney General (“OAG”); 152 were sent to the Illinois State Police; and 18 to local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies.

In particular, in FY '09, there were 79 law enforcement referrals, including 20 to the OAG, 8 to federal prosecutors and the FBI, 37 to the State Police, 2 to county prosecutors, and 9 to other Executive Inspectors General and IG offices.

Wright praised the August 2009 revision of the Illinois Officials and Employees Ethics Act ("Ethics Act") for its authorization to the OEIG to accept anonymous complaints and to self-initiate investigations. The revisions also expanded OEIG jurisdiction in two important areas - agency hiring and private sector employment of certain former State employees.

The Ethics Act revision also allows the State Executive Ethics Commission to publicly release redacted OEIG Founded Reports. In addition, through its annual reports, the OEIG continues to give the public and other stakeholders access to a statistical view of the contemporary ethical environment within State government, said Wright.

Although the legislative changes to the Ethics Act have somewhat increased the transparency of OEIG operations, "the OEIG continues to support the fullest measure of transparency for founded and unfounded cases and the legislative changes that will make those reports readily available to the public without redaction while still protecting the identities of complainants," Wright said.

Established by Executive Order in January 2003, and promulgated under Article 20 of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430, *et seq.*) in December 2003, the OEIG is an independent, non-partisan State agency dedicated to ensuring accountability in the operation of State government. Its mission is to receive and fairly investigate, as appropriate, complaints of fraud, waste, abuse, corruption, and misconduct by employees of State agencies under its jurisdiction and those doing business with those agencies.

Misconduct complaints can be made to the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor, by calling the OEIG Complaint Hotline, 1-866-814-1113 (TTY 1-888-261-2734), or by fax, 1-312-814-5479. Complaint forms can be obtained at the OEIG web site: <http://inspectorgeneral.il.gov/complaint.htm>. The OEIG will uphold the confidentiality of complainants' identities to the fullest extent permitted by law.