



# ILLINOIS ETHICS MATTERS

SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

*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

Acting Executive Inspector General

### Sydney R. Roberts

First Deputy Inspector General

### Sean Ginty

General Counsel

### Deborah Ellis

Deputy Inspector General  
Complaints & Compliance

### Gilbert R. Jimenez

Deputy Inspector General for  
Special Operations and  
Analysis

### Millicent Willis

Deputy Inspector General  
Investigations

### James Bonk

Director of Investigations

### Rochelle Hardy

Chief Financial Officer

### David Keahl

Director of Ethics Training &  
Compliance

### Wendy Washington

Human Resources Manager

### Bresha Brewer

Legislative Liaison

### 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

<http://inspectorgeneral.il.gov/>

## RECENT NEWS

### Appointment of New Executive Inspector General

Effective September 7, 2010, Ricardo Meza was appointed Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor (OEIG), pending confirmation by the Illinois Senate. Mr. Meza previously served more than ten years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and most recently as the Midwest Regional Counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF).

### A Message from the Acting Executive Inspector General



Ricardo Meza

The mission of the OEIG is to ensure accountability in State government by functioning as an independent, non-partisan State agency with responsibility, pursuant to state law, to investigate allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, and misconduct in relation to the more than 350 executive branch State agencies, boards, commissions, and State public universities within its jurisdiction and authority.

In addition, the OEIG, in conjunction with the Illinois Executive Ethics Commission and in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, provides oversight to ethics training for the approximately 160,000 employees, appointees, and officials under OEIG jurisdiction.

### My vision for this office is one in which:

- Citizens of Illinois view the OEIG as wholly independent, objective, and fair.
- Those who wish to report misconduct to the OEIG may do so with relative ease, including via the OEIG's new upcoming Internet-based complaints mailbox.
- OEIG investigations are conducted both thoroughly and in a timely manner.
- The activities of the OEIG are transparent to the fullest extent allowed by law and rule.

### An Ethics Reminder

As the November 2010 elections near, we must all be reminded of the importance of not engaging in prohibited political activities during work hours or at any time when using State property and resources such as computers, copiers, email accounts.

**Under circumstances such as these, unlawful prohibited activities include, but are not limited to:**

- Preparing for or organizing a political event;
- Soliciting contributions for a political event, party or candidate;
- Preparing or distributing campaign literature, signs or material; and,
- Soliciting votes on behalf of a political organization or a candidate for elective office.

For example, it is unlawful to send a message, via your State email account, encouraging others to vote for a candidate for elective office.

**By David Keahl**

*Director of Ethics & Compliance*

**Calendar of Events:** **September 30, 2010:** Mr. Meza will address the Northwestern Latino Law Students Association. **October 6, 2010:** Mr. Meza will speak at the IDOT Fraud Awareness Conference in Springfield. **November 2010:** The General Assembly returns to Springfield for November veto session. The Senate will be in session November 16 -18 and December 1-2; the House, November 16-18 and 29-30. For more information about the General Assembly please visit: <http://www.ilga.gov/>