

Investigative Summary: Findings Concerning Allegations of Misconduct by a USMS Assistant Director Involving Misuse of Position and a Personal Relationship with a Subordinate

The DOJ Office of the Inspector General (OIG) initiated an investigation of a current U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) Assistant Director (AD) following a complaint that the AD improperly influenced the hiring of a contract employee based on a prior personal relationship, and that the contract cost was excessive. The OIG determined that the AD had a prior romantic and an ongoing personal relationship with the individual who was hired as a contract employee, and that the AD created the position based on the individual's qualifications. Moreover, the AD provided the individual's resume to the USMS personnel responsible for the procurement, who in turn provided it to the contractor. The contractor hired the individual without considering any other applicants. The contract price was within guidelines for the labor category requested, but it was among the highest cost contracts entered by the USMS for an individual.

The AD violated government ethics regulations by using a public office for the personal benefit of another, and violated USMS regulations by failing to seek recusal from the procurement process based on a personal relationship with an applicant. The AD also violated USMS policy regarding personal relationships with subordinates. The USMS cancelled the contract upon learning of the AD's improper role in the process.

The OIG did not substantiate other allegations against the AD.

The OIG has completed its investigation and has provided a report to the USMS for review and appropriate action. The Department informed the OIG that it has assigned this matter to the Professional Misconduct Review Unit for adjudication.

Posted to oig.justice.gov on August 6, 2015