

The following information is provided in conjunction with the posting of this entry on the OIG web site in August 2015: the date range covered by the 16 summaries in this list is Jan. 1, 2009 - Apr. 30, 2010.

**U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Inspector General
List of Investigations Requested by Senators Grassley and Coburn**

1. The Office of the Inspector (OIG) conducted an investigation concerning allegations that a Department of Justice (DOJ) employee engaged in actions that were a conflict of interest, received gratuities, and shared privileged billing information with a contractor.

The OIG investigation determined the employee had received a lunch from a contractor that twice exceeded the allowable amount and that the employee provided information to another unrelated contractor before a bid was awarded. The investigation did not conclude that the employee released any billing information as alleged. The DOJ employee received a 14-day suspension.

2. The OIG conducted an investigation concerning allegations that a DOJ employee misused his position and threatened a young student.

The OIG investigation established that the employee had misused his position, sent a threatening e-mail to the student, and confronted the student in a school hallway. The employee received a 2-day suspension.

3. The OIG conducted an investigation concerning allegations that a DOJ employee allegedly interfered with an OIG investigation.

The investigation disclosed that the employee verbally abused staff and did not cooperate with the OIG during the investigation. Disciplinary action is pending.

4. The OIG conducted an investigation concerning allegations that a DOJ employee engaged in a conflict of interest by awarding payments to a contract interpreter with whom he was romantically and financially involved.

The OIG substantiated the allegations. The DOJ employee resigned from his position.

5. The OIG conducted an investigation in 2009 concerning allegations that a DOJ employee misused his position to secure employment for a friend with a contractor conducting business with DOJ.

The OIG substantiated the allegation, and the DOJ employee was given a letter of admonishment.

6. The OIG conducted an investigation concerning an allegation that a DOJ employee was involved in an intimate relationship with a subordinate.

The OIG investigation substantiated the allegation, and the employee received a 15-day suspension.

7. The OIG conducted an investigation concerning allegations that a DOJ employee repeatedly attempted to view adult and possibly child pornography from his government computer while working.

The investigation substantiated the allegations that the employee attempted to view pornography and searched several Internet sites for "teens." Disciplinary action is pending.

8. The OIG investigated an allegation that a DOJ employee had an inappropriate relationship with a subordinate.

The OIG investigation substantiated that the employee had an intimate relationship with a subordinate and failed to recuse himself from decisions concerning the promotion of the subordinate. The employee retired from DOJ.

9. The OIG investigated an allegation that a DOJ employee improperly solicited campaign contributions from her subordinates and participated in two campaign fundraisers hosted by her husband.

The OIG found that the employee had solicited and received political contributions from subordinate employees for both fundraisers, in violation of the Hatch Act. The matter was referred to the U.S. Office of Special Counsel for appropriate action.

10. The OIG investigated allegations that Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) management retaliated against an employee in violation of whistleblower regulations for disclosing information about another employee's misconduct.

The OIG found that an FBI manager's decision to remove the complainant from his position on a particular project was taken in retaliation for the complainant's various allegations of misconduct, although the allegations did not constitute protected disclosures under the whistleblower regulations. The OIG also found that a different employee was not candid in his responses to FBI management once confronted with the complainant's allegations of misconduct.

The FBI Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) disagreed with the retaliation finding regarding the manager, and no disciplinary action was taken against him. FBI OPR found that the other employee was not candid in his responses to management and recommended a 14-day suspension. Final disciplinary action is pending.

11. The OIG investigated an allegation that a DOJ employee improperly lobbied members of Congress.

The OIG investigation did not substantiate the allegations of improper lobbying of Congress. However, the OIG found that the employee used DOJ letterhead and his official title to send campaign contributions to support candidates in partisan elections, and also directed his subordinates to type his private correspondence on official letterhead. As a result of this investigation the employee resigned from his position.

12. The OIG investigated complaints that a DOJ employee gave preferential treatment to two federal contractors.

The OIG concluded that the employee's participation in a presentation to DOJ officials by one of the contractor's representatives violated ethical standards for federal employees. Disciplinary action is pending.

13. The OIG investigated allegations that a former DOJ employee improperly participated in awarding grants that benefitted corporations for which the employee's spouse was a consultant.

The OIG found that the employee's conduct violated the requirement that federal employees avoid the appearance of violating ethical standards. The employee resigned from DOJ prior to the conclusion of our investigation.

14. The OIG investigated an allegation that FBI supervisors retaliated against an employee for making protected disclosures.

The OIG found that the complainant's disclosures were not protected disclosures within the meaning of the whistleblower regulations and that there was insufficient evidence to conclude that his supervisors retaliated against him because of his disclosure.

15. The OIG investigated allegations that a DOJ employee improperly alerted an informant to information collected in the course of an investigation of the informant. During our investigation, evidence

arose that one of the employee's supervisors failed to report allegations of misconduct.

Our investigation determined that the DOJ employee committed misconduct in his handling of the informant. We also found that two supervisors were negligent in supervising the employee, and that one of those supervisors failed to report the misconduct. The employees have since retired. The supervisors were both disciplined, with one supervisor receiving a 3-day suspension and the other supervisor receiving a 5-day suspension.

16. The OIG investigated allegations that a correctional officer smuggled tobacco into a correctional facility.

In the OIG criminal investigation the correctional officer accepted \$1,300 from an undercover OIG agent in exchange for agreeing to smuggle tobacco into the facility. The U.S. Attorney's Office in the Southern District of Texas declined prosecution. We disagreed with that conclusion. We presented the case to the local District Attorney, who prosecuted the correctional officer. The correctional officer entered a conditional plea to one count of bribery, with the final adjudication of guilt deferred until his sentence of 36 months probation is completed. He also was ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine.