

U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General



SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO **CONGRESS**

April 1, 2023–September 30, 2023

Online Report Availability

The audits, evaluations, inspections, special review reports, investigations press releases, and ongoing work of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) are available on the <u>OIG website</u>.

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Information about the federal Inspector General community is available through the <u>Inspectors</u> <u>General Network</u>.

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MESSAGE FROM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL



It is my pleasure to submit this Semiannual Report on the operations of the Department of Justice (DOJ or Department) OIG, which covers the period from April 1, 2023, to September 30, 2023.

Within the past 6 months, the OIG has completed and released many noteworthy reports. For example, the OIG released misconduct reports regarding matters of significant public interest, including the Federal Bureau of Prison's (BOP) custody, care, and supervision of Jeffrey Epstein and misconduct by a then U.S. Attorney who, among other things, used her position as U.S Attorney and used non-public DOJ information in an effort to influence the outcome of an election.

During this reporting period, as a result of additional funding provided by Congress in the fiscal year (FY) 2023 appropriations bill, the OIG established a BOP interdisciplinary oversight team, the goal of which is to enhance the OIG's oversight of the BOP by increasing intra-agency collaboration and strategic work planning. The OIG also initiated its unannounced inspection program of BOP facilities and released its first unannounced inspection report, which identified significant staffing shortages, infrastructure issues, and an inadequate security camera system. Also of interest is the OIG's review of the BOP's efforts to maintain and construct institutions, which identified a serious mismatch between available and needed funding, and the absence of a well-defined infrastructure strategy.

Additionally, the OIG released audit reports that examined use-of-force policies across DOJ's law enforcement and corrections components and their alignment with DOJ guidance, as well as the Department's strategy to address domestic violent extremism.

The OIG also continued our important oversight efforts relating to DOJ's contracts and grants, including audits of the BOP's use of sole-source contract actions, the Community Relations Service's (CRS) contracting activities, and the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) \$250 million procurement of a new grant management system. The OIG also continued to audit subrecipients of Crime Victims Fund (CVF) grants, helping to ensure that this important source of funding is managed properly so that crime victims can receive critical services.

The OIG also issued investigative summaries regarding misconduct by DOJ employees, including sexual harassment, wire fraud, bribery, cyberstalking, assault, conflicts of interest, perjury, and lack of candor. Further, the OIG's Investigations Division closed 125 criminal or administrative misconduct cases, and its work resulted in 44 convictions or pleas and 84 terminations, administrative disciplinary actions, and resignations. The quality of the investigations described in this report demonstrates the importance of effective, fair, and independent investigative oversight conducted by our office.

Finally, the OIG continued our pandemic-related oversight efforts. We released survey data regarding inmate perceptions of the BOP's management of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The OIG also participated in a multiagency review of health care staffing shortages resulting in a report issued by the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC). The OIG continues to contribute to the efforts of the PRAC Fraud Task Force, assigning 10 OIG agents to the task force on a part-time basis to work on pandemic fraud cases in addition to their regular case load. This initiative allows the OIG to make a broader contribution to the Inspector General community by assisting with investigations that might otherwise remain unstaffed.

The OIG remains committed to its mission to detect and deter waste, fraud, abuse, and misconduct related to DOJ programs, and to promote economy and efficiency in those programs—as is exemplified in our work over the past 6 months. As usual, the Semiannual Report reflects the exceptional work of OIG personnel.

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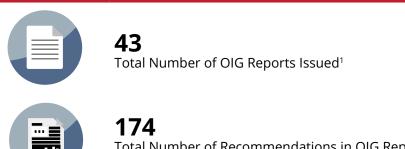
Michael E. Horowitz Inspector General October 31, 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

Statistical Highlights

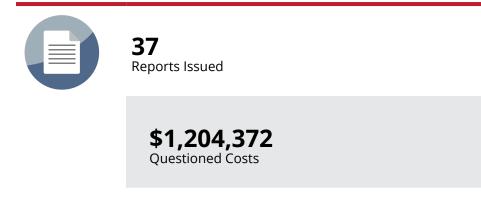
The following summaries highlight some of the OIG's audits, evaluations, inspections, special reviews, and investigations, which are discussed further in this report. As the highlights illustrate, the OIG continues to conduct wide-ranging oversight of DOJ programs and operations.

OIG-wide



Total Number of Recommendations in OIG Reports (including dollar-related recommendations)²

Audit Division



¹ This figure includes OIG audits, reports, evaluations, inspections, special reviews, surveys, issue alerts, and Management Advisory Memoranda (MAM) issued during the reporting period. This figure does not include Single Audit Act reports, which are identified below, or Reports of Investigation.

² This figure includes all recommendations, including those for management improvements and dollar-related recommendations, which are recommendations for components to remedy questioned costs and funds to be put to better use.

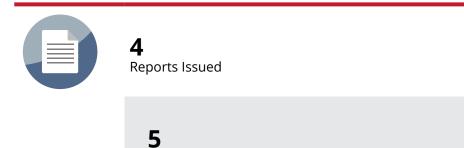
151 Recommendations for Management Improvements



12 Single Audit Act Transmittal Reports Issued

26 Recommendations for Management Improvements

Evaluation and Inspections Division



Recommendations for Management Improvements

Investigations Division



7,826

Allegations Received by the Investigations Division³

93 Investigations Opened

³ These figures represent allegations entered into the OIG's complaint tracking system. They do not include the approximate 6,418 hotline, email, and phone contacts that were processed and deemed non-jurisdictional and outside the purview of the federal government.



125 Investigations Closed



42 Arrests



40 Indictments & Informations



44 Convictions & Pleas



84 Administrative Actions⁴





Audits, Evaluations, Inspections, and Special Reviews Highlights

Examples of OIG audits, evaluations, inspections, and special reviews completed during this semiannual reporting period are:

Inspection of the BOP's Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Waseca

FCI Waseca has a shortage of Correctional Officers (CO), and significant staffing shortages in Health Services and Psychology Services cause delays in treatment. Additionally, the OIG identified serious infrastructure issues and found that the existing security camera system produces low resolution video and does not provide sufficient coverage. The OIG did not make any recommendations but will continue to monitor the BOP's efforts to address these systemic issues at all BOP institutions.

⁴ See the Glossary for a definition of "Administrative Actions."

⁵ "Monetary Recoveries" include civil, criminal and nonjudicial fines, restitutions, recoveries, assessments, penalties, and forfeitures.

The BOP's Efforts to Maintain and Construct Institutions

The OIG found that the BOP's efforts to address maintenance issues were negatively impacted by two major factors: (1) a mismatch between available and needed funding, and (2) the absence of a well-defined infrastructure strategy. The limited availability of resources results in increasingly costly maintenance and, in the most extreme circumstances, having to shutter institutions and relocate inmates due to unsafe conditions. The OIG made two recommendations, and the BOP agreed with both recommendations.

Audit of DOJ's Strategy to Address the Domestic Violent Extremism (DVE) Threat

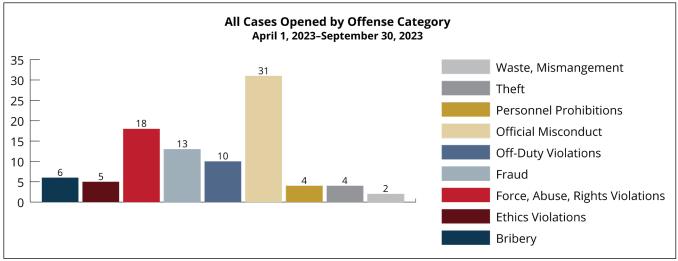
The OIG identified areas in which DOJ can build upon its recent enhanced efforts to combat and address evolving DVE threats. The OIG determined that DOJ should ensure that all relevant components have a consistent approach to identifying and coordinating DVE-related cases, and that National Security Division's new data tracking efforts accurately and reliably capture and report on the DVE threat landscape. The OIG made seven recommendations, and DOJ concurred with all of them.

Audit of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) Risk-Based Inspection Selection Processes and Administrative Actions Issued to Federal Firearms Licensees (FFL)

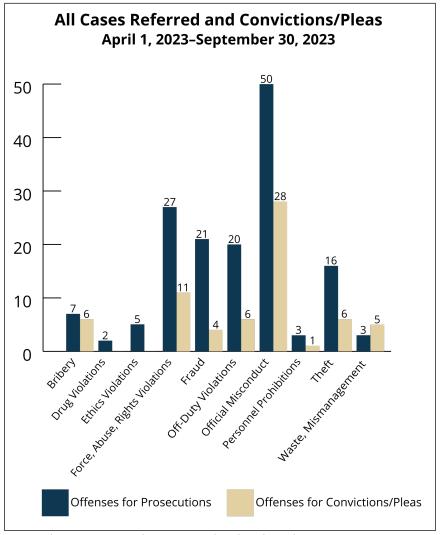
The OIG found that ATF's compliance inspection activity remains a concern. Specifically, the OIG found that some licensees with repeat, serious violations were allowed to continue their operations. The OIG found that ATF has not evaluated the efficacy of its risk-based approach nor has it met its projections to inspect licensees with a high risk of noncompliance or exploitation by criminal activity. The OIG made 13 recommendations, and ATF concurred with all of them.

Investigative Highlights

As shown in the statistics at the beginning of this section and in the charts below, the OIG investigates many allegations of misconduct involving DOJ employees or contractors and grantees who receive DOJ funds.



Source: Investigations Data Management System



Note: The convictions/pleas reported in this chart do not necessarily arise from the matters referred for prosecution during this reporting period.

Source: Investigations Data Management System

The following are examples of such investigations:

An Investigation of Alleged Misconduct by United States Attorney Rachael Rollins

On May 17, 2023, the OIG issued a report describing an investigation of alleged misconduct by U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts Rachael Rollins. The evidence the OIG obtained substantiated multiple allegations concerning Rollins. Most concerning, the OIG found that Rollins used her position as U.S Attorney and used non-public DOJ information available to her by virtue of her position as U.S. Attorney, in an effort to influence the outcome of an election, in violation of the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch, as well as Department policy and the obligations under the Ethics Agreement she signed after her nomination as U.S. Attorney. The OIG also found that Rollins actively

participated in a partisan political campaign, in violation of Department policy that further restricts the political activity of noncareer officials, including U.S. Attorneys and that she knowingly and willfully made a false statement of material fact and lacked candor during her OIG interview. The OIG also found that, among other things, Rollins attended a partisan political fundraiser without approval from the Deputy Attorney General, or her designee, as required by Department policy, and her attendance was contrary to the ethics advice she received before the event.

Investigation and Review of the BOP's Custody, Care, and Supervision of Jeffrey Epstein at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York, New York (MCC New York)

On June 23, 2023, the OIG completed its report of investigation for an investigation initiated upon receipt of information from the BOP that on August 10, 2019, in the MCC New York, Jeffrey Epstein was found hanged in his assigned cell within the Special Housing Unit. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, City of New York, determined that Epstein had died by suicide. The OIG conducted this investigation jointly with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), with the OIG's investigative focus being the conduct of BOP personnel. Among other things, the FBI investigated the cause of Epstein's death and determined there was no criminality pertaining to how Epstein had died. This report concerns the OIG's findings regarding MCC New York personnel's custody, care, and supervision of Epstein while detained at the facility from his arrest on federal sex trafficking charges on July 6, 2019, until his death on August 10, 2019.

Former Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Sentenced for Conflict-of-Interest Violation

On July 26, 2023, a former AUSA was sentenced to 6 months of probation and fined \$500 for one count of acts affecting a personal financial interest. The AUSA, who resigned after her arrest, was sentenced in the Northern District of Florida. According to the factual statement in support of the guilty plea, from on or about August 22, 2018, through on or about February 26, 2021, the AUSA directed contracts from the U.S. Attorney's Offices (USAO) for the Northern District of Florida to companies in which her spouse had a financial interest, including while she served as chief of the office's Civil Division; the AUSA concealed her spouse's financial interest in contracts to conduct title searches in litigation defended by the USAO; and the AUSA's spouse then deposited money derived from the contracts into the AUSA's and her spouse's joint bank account.

Former Arkansas State Senator Sentenced for Conspiracy in Connection with a Nonprofit Receiving DOJ Funds

On April 25, 2023, a former Arkansas State Senator was sentenced to 50 months of imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release, as well as ordered to pay a money judgment of \$468,125 for one count of conspiracy. The former Senator was sentenced in the Western District of Missouri. According to the factual statement in support of the guilty plea, from in or about 2012 through in or about 2017, the former Senator conspired to receive payments, travel, entertainment, and legal work in exchange for legislative and official action favorable to Preferred Family Healthcare, a healthcare charity that received DOJ funding.

OIG PROFILE

The OIG is a statutorily created independent entity whose mission is to detect and deter waste, fraud, abuse, and misconduct involving DOJ programs and personnel and promote economy and efficiency in DOJ operations. The OIG investigates alleged violations of criminal and civil laws, regulations, and ethical standards arising from the conduct of DOJ employees in their numerous and diverse activities. The OIG also audits and inspects DOJ programs and assists management in promoting integrity, economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. The OIG has jurisdiction to review the programs and personnel of the FBI; ATF; BOP; Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); USAO; U.S. Marshals Service (USMS); and all other organizations within DOJ, as well as DOJ's contractors and grant recipients.

The OIG consists of the following divisions and offices:

- Immediate Office of the Inspector General is the leadership office of the OIG. It is comprised of the Inspector General, the Deputy Inspector General, and staff who contribute to the leadership and policy direction of the OIG, congressional relations, media relations and internal communications, special projects, sensitive investigations, administrative duties, and other responsibilities. The Immediate Office engages with the Department's leadership, members of Congress and their staffs, and other stakeholders. It also coordinates awareness of whistleblower rights and protections; and publication of the OIG's mission reports, including the Top Management and Performance Challenges Report and the Semiannual Report to Congress.
- Audit Division is responsible for independent audits of DOJ programs, computer systems, and financial statements. The Audit Division has regional offices in the Atlanta; Chicago; Denver; Philadelphia; San Francisco; and Washington, D.C., areas. Its Financial Statement Audit Office and Computer Security and Information Technology Audit Office are located in Washington, D.C., along with Audit headquarters. Audit headquarters consists of the Immediate Office of the Assistant Inspector General for Audit, Office of Operations, Office of Policy and Planning, Office of Quality Assurance, and Office of Data Analytics.
- Investigations Division is responsible for investigating allegations of bribery, fraud, abuse, civil rights violations, and violations of other criminal laws and administrative procedures governing DOJ employees, contractors, and grantees. The Investigations Division has field offices in Chicago; Dallas; Denver; Los Angeles; Miami; New York; and Washington, D.C. The Investigations Division has smaller, area offices in Atlanta, Boston, Detroit, El Paso, Houston, New Jersey, San Francisco, and Tucson. The Fraud Detection Office and the Cyber Investigations Office are co-located with the Washington Field Office. The Cyber Investigations Office also includes personnel in the Dallas and Los Angeles Field Offices. Investigations headquarters in Washington, D.C., consists of the Immediate Office of the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations and the following branches: Operations I, Operations II, Investigative Support, Administrative Support, and Hotline Operations.

The map below shows the locations for the Audit and Investigations Divisions.



Audit and Investigations Division Locations

Source: OIG

- **Evaluation and Inspections Division** conducts program and management reviews that involve on-site inspections, statistical analysis, interviews, and other techniques to review DOJ programs and activities and makes recommendations for improvement.
- **Oversight and Review Division** blends the skills of attorneys, investigators, Program Analysts, and Paralegals to conduct special reviews and investigations of sensitive allegations involving DOJ employees and operations.
- **Management and Planning Division** provides the Inspector General with advice on administrative and fiscal policy and assists OIG components by providing services in the areas of planning, budget, finance, quality assurance, human resources, diversity and inclusion, training, procurement, facilities, asset management, telecommunications, security, records management, and general mission support.

- **Information Technology Division** executes the OIG's information technology strategic vision and goals by directing technology and business process integration, network administration, implementation of computer hardware and software, cybersecurity, applications development, programming services, policy formulation, and other mission-support activities.
- **Office of General Counsel** provides legal advice to OIG management and staff. It also drafts memoranda on issues of law; prepares administrative subpoenas; represents the OIG in personnel, contractual, and legal matters; and responds to Freedom of Information Act requests.

The OIG has a nationwide workforce of more than 500 Special Agents (SA), Auditors, Inspectors, attorneys, and administrative professionals. For FY 2023, the OIG's direct appropriation was \$139 million; the OIG also received a transfer-in of \$10 million and an additional \$17.1 million in reimbursements.

As required by Section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (IG Act), as amended, 5 U.S.C. § 405, this Semiannual Report to Congress is reviewing the accomplishments of the OIG for the 6-month period of April 1, 2023–September 30, 2023.

Additional information about the OIG and full-text versions of many of its reports are available on the <u>OIG website</u>.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE OVERSIGHT

Beginning in early March 2020, the OIG promptly shifted a significant portion of its oversight efforts toward assessing DOJ's readiness to respond to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic. Through its initial assessment, and the subsequent passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act on March 27, 2020, the OIG determined that the most immediate challenges to DOJ operations involved preventing the spread of the virus among federal inmates and detainees; safely operating immigration courts; and ensuring robust oversight of \$850 million in pandemic-related grant funding being disbursed by DOJ to state, local, and tribal organizations. Since that time, these efforts have been expanded to include areas such as the impact of COVID-19 on DOJ law enforcement and other day-to-day operations.

The OIG's completed pandemic-related work for this reporting period is listed below, along with the OIG's ongoing work. More information about the OIG's pandemic oversight activities is available on the <u>OIG website</u>.

Reports Issued

Inmate Perceptions of the BOP's Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The OIG surveyed federal inmates on their perceptions of the BOP's management of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 25,500 inmates provided their perspectives on the measures the BOP took to try to mitigate the pandemic and those measures' effect on inmates' experiences. The pandemic presented significant challenges to the BOP in mitigating disease spread, safeguarding the health and safety of staff and inmates, and maintaining core operations. Although inmates' views are perceptions that do not necessarily reflect the BOP's official procedures or all the circumstances surrounding its response to the pandemic, the survey results offer firsthand insights on inmate experiences. The OIG did not make any recommendations.

<u>Review of Personnel Shortages in Federal Health Care Programs During the COVID-19</u> <u>Pandemic</u>

The OIG participated in a multiagency review of health care staffing shortages resulting in a report issued by the PRAC. The report found that the four most commonly reported factors that contributed to personnel shortages were a limited labor pool, noncompetitive pay, COVID-19 requirements, and a challenging hiring process. Additionally, the report identified a decrease in patient access to care and patient satisfaction as a result of personnel shortages. The report does not contain any recommendations.

Investigations

In January 2021, the PRAC stood up a Fraud Task Force to serve as a resource for the Inspector General community by surging investigative resources into those areas where the need is the greatest, which is currently pandemic loan fraud. Agents from OIGs across the government are detailed to work on Task Force cases. These agents have partnered with prosecutors at the Department's Fraud Section and USAOs across the country.

The Investigations Division has 10 agents who are assigned to the PRAC Fraud Task Force on a parttime basis. The PRAC has extended its authority to investigate pandemic-related fraud to the DOJ OIG through a memorandum of understanding. The agents are assigned Paycheck Protection Program cases while continuing to work their existing OIG caseloads. This initiative allows the OIG to make a broader contribution to the Inspector General community by assisting with investigations that might otherwise remain unstaffed.

The idea behind the PRAC Fraud Task Force is to harness the expertise of the oversight community and attack this problem with every available tool. The Task Force works closely with other initiatives to combat pandemic fraud such as the Department's COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force.

Ongoing Work

The OIG's ongoing work is available on the OIG website.

Audit of the Office on Violence Against Women's Grant Administration Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Review Examining the BOP's Use of Home Confinement as a Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

MULTICOMPONENT

While many of the OIG's activities are specific to a particular component of DOJ, other work covers more than one component and, in some instances, extends to DOJ contractors and grant recipients. The following describes OIG audits, evaluations, inspections, reviews, and investigations that involve more than one DOJ component.

Reports Issued

Audit of DOJ's Strategy to Address the DVE Threat

According to DOJ, threats posed by domestic violent extremists have increased over the past few years and have become more complicated due to the emergence of new violent ideologies, the impact of social media, and the response to recent political and social events. DOJ has characterized its efforts to counter DVE as a whole-of-Department commitment that requires sustained attention and resources, yet DOJ has not formalized a DVE strategy. The OIG determined that DOJ should take additional steps to ensure that its various Department-wide efforts to combat DVE are cohesive and effective. Moreover, DOJ should consider formalizing mechanisms to routinely evaluate the efficacy and impact of its DVE efforts and to maintain the continuous protection of civil liberties. DOJ should also ensure that all relevant components have a consistent approach to identifying and coordinating DVE-related cases, and that the National Security Division's new data tracking efforts are set up to accurately and reliably capture and report on the DVE threat landscape. The OIG made seven recommendations to improve DOJ's overall consistency and coordination in addressing the DVE threat, and DOJ concurred with all of them.

Audit of DOJ's Law Enforcement and Corrections Components' Use-of-Force Policies

The OIG examined use-of-force policies across DOJ's law enforcement and corrections components and their alignment with DOJ guidance. The OIG found that ATF, DEA, FBI, BOP, and USMS made substantial progress towards updating their policies and training to align with DOJ's updated guidance. However, the OIG also identified certain policy gaps related to use-of-force in custodial situations, as well as inconsistencies in some components' application of use-of-force policies and practices to task force officers and contractors. The OIG found that the Department should ensure that its law enforcement and corrections components have an appropriate interpretation of the requirements and a cohesive approach to training, which, in turn, will help promote best practices in use-of-force training for other law enforcement agencies across the country. The OIG made six recommendations, and the relevant components agreed with all of them.

Audit of DOJ's FY 2022 Compliance with the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019

The OIG issued an audit report of DOJ's 2022 compliance with the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019, in accordance with the reporting requirements of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Circular A-123, Management's Responsibility for Internal Control, Appendix C, Requirements for Payment Integrity Improvement; OMB Circular A 136, Financial Reporting Requirements; and OMB Payment Integrity Annual Data Call Instructions. The OIG found that the Department complied with the requirements of Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 for each of its five programs for the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2022. In addition, the OIG determined the Department's efforts to prevent and reduce improper and unknown payments were effective. The report did not contain any recommendations.

Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) Audits

The FISMA requires the Inspector General for each agency to perform an annual independent evaluation of the agency's information security programs and practices. The evaluation includes testing the effectiveness of information security policies, procedures, and practices of a representative subset of agency systems.

This reporting period, the OIG submitted the FISMA results for FY 2023 for DOJ to OMB; the metrics report for the National Security Systems within the FBI to the Intelligence Community Inspector General, which in turn forwarded the National Security Systems metrics to OMB; and the metrics for the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, an independent, federal executive branch agency. The OIG is currently reviewing FISMA compliance at the six DOJ components selected for FY 2023: (1) the FBI, (2) Justice Management Division, (3) ATF, (4) Criminal Division, (5) USMS, and (6) the U.S. Trustee Program. Also, the OIG is reviewing FY 2022 compliance at the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency.

Single Audit Act Reports

The Single Audit Act of 1984, as amended, promotes sound financial management of federal financial assistance provided to state, local, and tribal governments, colleges, universities, and nonprofit organizations. Under 2 C.F.R. § 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, such entities that expend \$750,000 or more in federal funds in 1 year must have a "single audit" performed annually covering all federal funds expended that year. These audits are conducted by nonfederal auditors, such as independent public accounting firms and state auditors. The OIG performs quality reviews of these audit reports when they pertain to DOJ funds and to determine whether they contain audit findings related to DOJ funds. The OIG's oversight of nonfederal audit activity informs federal managers about the soundness of the management of federal programs and identifies any significant areas of internal control weakness, noncompliance, and questioned costs for resolution or follow-up. As a result of the OIG's review of the single audits during this semiannual period, the OIG transmitted to OJP 12 single audit reports covering expenditures totaling more than \$223 million in 134 grants and other agreements. To address these deficiencies, the auditors recommended 26 management improvements.

Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Section 1001 of the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act directs the OIG to receive and review complaints of civil rights and civil liberties violations by DOJ employees, to publicize how people can contact the OIG to file a complaint, and to send a semiannual report to Congress discussing the OIG's implementation of these responsibilities. In September 2023, the OIG released its most recent report, which summarized the OIG's Section 1001 activities from January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023. The report described the number of complaints the OIG received under this section, the status of investigations conducted by the OIG and DOJ components in response to those complaints, and an estimate of the OIG's expenses for conducting these activities.

Ongoing Work

The OIG's ongoing work is available on the <u>OIG website</u>.

Audit of DOJ's Procurement Data Reporting in the Federal Procurement Data System-Next Generation

Audit of DOJ's Strategy to Combat and Respond to Ransomware Threats and Attacks

Audit of DOJ's Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018

Audit of the FY 2022 Information Technology Security Pursuant to the FISMA

Audit of the Implementation of the DOJ Electronic Recording of Statements Policy

Audits of DOJ and Select Components Annual Financial Statements FY 2023

Review of Racial Equity in DOJ's Law Enforcement Components

Review Examining DOJ's and Its Law Enforcement Components' Roles and Responsibilities in Responding to Protest Activity and Civil Unrest in Washington, D.C., and Portland, Oregon

Review Examining the Role and Activity of DOJ and Its Components in Preparing for and Responding to the Events at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021

Review of DOJ's Use of Subpoenas and Other Legal Authorities to Obtain Communication Records of Members of Congress and Affiliated Persons and the News Media

Review of the Department's Violent Crime Initiatives

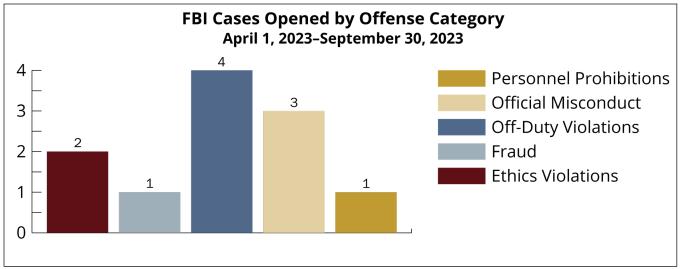
DOJ's Efforts to Coordinate the Sharing of Information Related to Malign Foreign Influence Directed at U.S. Elections

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Investigations

During this reporting period, the OIG received 1,132 complaints involving the FBI. The most common allegations made against FBI employees were Official Misconduct; Off-Duty Violations; and Waste, Mismanagement. The majority of the complaints were considered management issues and were provided to the FBI for its review and appropriate action.

The OIG opened 11 investigations and referred 71 allegations to the FBI's Inspection Division for action or investigation. At the close of the reporting period, the OIG had 66 open criminal or administrative investigations of alleged misconduct related to FBI employees. The investigations included Official Misconduct and Off-Duty Violations.



Source: Investigations Data Management System

The following are examples of investigations involving the FBI that the OIG conducted during this reporting period:

<u>Findings of Misconduct by an FBI Program Analysis Officer for Sexual Harassment,</u> <u>Unprofessional Conduct, and Lack of Candor to the OIG, and by a then FBI Unit Chief for Failure</u> <u>to Report an Allegation of Sexual Harassment</u>

On May 9, 2023, the OIG completed its report of investigation for an investigation initiated upon receipt of information from an anonymous complainant, alleging that an FBI Program Analysis Officer had sexually harassed a colleague and engaged in unprofessional conduct toward colleagues, including making sexually

suggestive comments. The complaint also alleged that the supervisor of the Program Analysis Officer, who was then an FBI Unit Chief, failed to report an allegation of sexual harassment by the Program Analysis Officer. During its investigation, the OIG found indications that the Program Analysis Officer lacked candor during an OIG interview. The investigation was presented for prosecution on January 5, 2022, and declined that same day.*⁶

Jury Convicts Ex-FBI Agent of Secret Probation Scheme

On August 10, 2023, a former FBI Special Agent and a non-DOJ coconspirator were both found guilty after a 12-day trial by jury of conspiracy to commit wire fraud. The former Special Agent was also convicted of five counts of wire fraud and one count of engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from specified unlawful activity (money laundering). According to court documents and evidence presented at trial, the Special Agent, after retiring from the FBI on October 31, 2015, engaged in a scheme with his coconspirator from in or about November 2015 through in or about August 2019, to defraud the victim with false statements. As a result of the scheme, the victim gave the Special Agent more than \$700,000 and his coconspirator more than \$50,000.

Ongoing Work

The OIG's ongoing work is available on the <u>OIG website</u>.

Audit of the FBI's Contract Awarded for Ballistics Research Assistant Services

Audit of the FBI's Contract Awarded to Clark Construction Group, LLC for the Innovation Center

Audit of the FBI's Efforts to Respond to Changing Operational Technologies

Audit of the FBI's Handling of Tips of Hands-on Sex Offenses Against Children

Audit of the FBI's Participation in Operation Allies Refuge and Operation Allies Welcome

Audit of the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program

⁶ An asterisk ("*") indicates that the investigative summary is responsive to the IG Act, 5 U.S.C § 405(b)(13).

FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS

Reports Issued

The BOP's Efforts to Maintain and Construct Institutions

All 123 of the BOP's institutions require maintenance, and 3 of these institutions are in such critical stages of disrepair that they are fully or partially closed. The OIG found that the BOP's efforts to address these issues were negatively impacted by two major factors: (1) a mismatch between available and needed funding, and (2) the absence of a well-defined infrastructure strategy. The OIG found that the BOP's budget requests have been far below its own estimates of resource needs. The limited availability of resources results in increasingly costly maintenance and, in the most extreme circumstances, having to shutter institutions and relocate inmates due to unsafe conditions. However, the OIG found that the BOP does not have a well-defined infrastructure strategy to assist with prioritizing needs. The OIG believes that such a strategy would improve facilities management by allowing the BOP to approach its planning more comprehensively and allow officials to communicate the BOP's needs more clearly to relevant decision makers, including DOJ leadership, OMB, and Congress. The OIG made two recommendations, and the BOP agreed with both of them.

The OIG also launched a <u>web page</u> with photos and videos documenting the condition of five BOP institutions.

Audit of the BOP's Sole-Source Contract Actions

The OIG reviewed 14 sole-source contract actions that the BOP awarded for utilities, security, maintenance and repairs, information technology, social rehabilitation, and medical services that totaled over \$58 million. The OIG identified concerns with the BOP's stewardship of the acquisition lifecycle, stemming from insufficient acquisition planning, contract oversight, and training of contracting officials. Specifically, the BOP's lack of acquisition workforce succession and contingency planning; and practice of augmenting security functions with non-security staff, potentially impacted contract and facility maintenance oversight that left the BOP unable to avoid the "unusual and compelling" circumstances that required immediate repairs of electrical systems and plumbing in some of the sampled sole-source contract actions. Additionally, of the 13 invoices the OIG reviewed, the BOP paid 5 invoices 11 to 138 days late, resulting in \$2,453 in interest charges. The OIG made nine recommendations, and the BOP agreed with all of them.

<u>Limited-Scope Review of the BOP's Strategies to Identify, Communicate, and Remedy</u> <u>Operational Issues</u>

The OIG initiated this limited-scope review after serious operational issues caused the BOP to significantly limit operations at U.S. Penitentiary Atlanta and close Metropolitan Correctional Center New York. Former members of the BOP's Executive Staff told the OIG that they had been largely aware of the long-standing operational issues and expressed confidence in the BOP's existing mechanisms to communicate information about operational issues. However, they also described foundational, enterprise-wide challenges that they

said limited their ability to remedy such issues. The OIG made five recommendations to ensure that BOP institutions operate safely and effectively, and the BOP concurred with all of them.

The OIG released a video message to accompany this report.

Inspection of the BOP's FCI Waseca

The OIG found that FCI Waseca suffers from a shortage of COs and its Health Services and Psychology Services Departments have significant staffing shortages, causing delays in treatment of the physical and mental healthcare needs of inmates. Additionally, the OIG identified serious infrastructure issues, including significant damage to several building roofs that have caused leaks throughout the institution, damaged medical and dental equipment, and rendered certain rooms and cells unusable. In addition, the OIG found that FCI Waseca's existing security camera system produces low resolution video, making it difficult to monitor inmate activity, and there are not enough cameras to provide sufficient coverage of the institution. The OIG did not make any recommendations for this report. However, related to past reports and recommendations, the OIG will continue to monitor the BOP's efforts to address these systemic issues at all BOP institutions, including FCI Waseca.

The OIG released a video message to accompany this report.

Management Advisory Memorandum

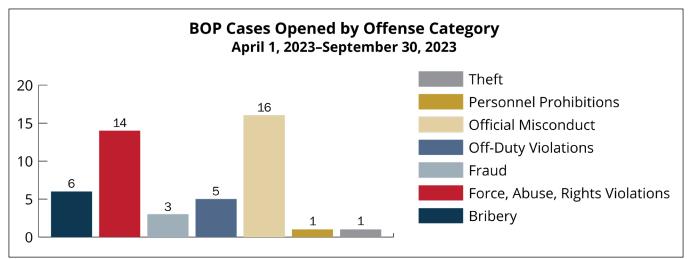
Notification of Concerns Regarding the BOP's Policies Pertaining to the Use of Oleoresin Capsicum Aerosol Spray on Inmates with Certain Pre-Existing Medical Conditions

The OIG released a Management Advisory Memorandum to the Director of the BOP advising of concerns identified in connection with the BOP's policy regarding the use of Oleoresin Capsicum Aerosol Spray (OC spray) on inmates with certain medical conditions rendering them potentially vulnerable to additional harm from its use. The OIG identified these concerns in connection with an OIG investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of an inmate with a diagnosed form of psychosis after BOP personnel used OC spray during their attempts to subdue him. Specifically, the OIG found that the BOP's current policies regarding the steps to be taken prior to the use of OC spray on certain inmates with known medical conditions to be ambiguous in the context of situations requiring an immediate response from BOP personnel. The OIG made two recommendations to address the concerns identified, and the BOP agreed with both of them.

Investigations

During this reporting period, the OIG received 5,569 complaints involving the BOP. The most common allegations made against BOP employees were Official Misconduct and Force, Abuse, Rights Violations. The majority of the complaints were considered management issues and were provided to the BOP for its review and appropriate action.

The OIG opened 46 investigations and referred 129 allegations to the BOP's Office of Internal Affairs for action or investigation. At the close of the reporting period, the OIG had 261 open cases of alleged misconduct related to BOP employees. The investigations included Official Misconduct and Force, Abuse, Rights Violations.



Source: Investigations Data Management System

The following are examples of investigations involving the BOP that the OIG conducted during this reporting period:

Investigation and Review of the BOP's Custody, Care, and Supervision of Jeffrey Epstein at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York, New York

On June 23, 2023, the OIG completed its report of investigation for an investigation initiated upon receipt of information from the BOP that on August 10, 2019, in the MCC New York, Jeffrey Epstein was found hanged in his assigned cell within the Special Housing Unit. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, City of New York, determined that Epstein had died by suicide. The OIG conducted this investigation jointly with the FBI, with the OIG's investigative focus being the conduct of BOP personnel. Among other things, the FBI investigated the cause of Epstein's death and determined there was no criminality pertaining to how Epstein had died. This report concerns the OIG's findings regarding MCC New York personnel's custody, care, and supervision of Epstein while detained at the facility from his arrest on federal sex trafficking charges on July 6, 2019, until his death on August 10, 2019.

The OIG released a video message to accompany this report.

Former BOP Clinical Nurse Sentenced for Conspiracy to Accept Bribes and Provide Contraband in Prison and Introduction of Contraband

On June 28, 2023, a former BOP Clinical Nurse previously assigned to the Federal Detention Center Miami, Florida (FDC Miami), was sentenced to 72 months of incarceration and 3 years of supervised release for one count of conspiracy to accept bribes and provide contraband in prison and one count of introduction of contraband. The Nurse, who resigned from his position after his arrest, was sentenced in the Southern District of Florida. According to the factual statement in support of the guilty plea, from on or about November 1, 2021, through on or about August 24, 2022, the Nurse, working in conjunction with others, solicited illegal monetary payments and other things of value, including the free use of luxury vehicles and sports cars, from FDC Miami inmates and others acting on behalf of such inmates, in exchange for the introduction of contraband, including controlled substances, into the FDC Miami.

Former BOP CO Sentenced for Conspiracy to Commit Honest Services Wire Fraud

On July 25, 2023, a former BOP CO previously assigned to the MCC New York was sentenced to 43 months of imprisonment and 2 years of supervised release, as well as ordered to forfeit \$77,894, for one count of conspiracy to commit honest services wire fraud. The CO, who was terminated from his employment in the BOP, was sentenced in the Southern District of New York. According to court records, the CO pleaded guilty to Count 2 of the Indictment which provided that, from in or about October 2019 through in or about April 2020, he participated in a conspiracy to commit honest services wire fraud by accepting bribe payments from prisoners at the MCC New York in exchange for prison contraband.

Non-DOJ Individual Sentenced for Conspiring with a BOP Inmate and a then BOP CO to Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance

On September 7, 2023, a non-DOJ individual was sentenced to 14 months of imprisonment followed by 3 years of supervised release for one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute a Schedule I controlled substance. According to the factual statement in support of the guilty plea, from in or about January 2017 through on or about February 28, 2019, the non-DOJ individual conspired with a then BOP CO and a BOP inmate to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute a controlled substance at the Federal Correctional Complex Forrest City in Arkansas.

Ongoing Work

The OIG's ongoing work is available on the OIG website.

Audit of the BOP's Contracts Awarded to the American Correctional Association

Audit of the BOP's Inmate Financial Responsibility Program

Audit of the BOP's Management of its National Gang Unit

Review of the BOP's Inmate Deaths in Custody

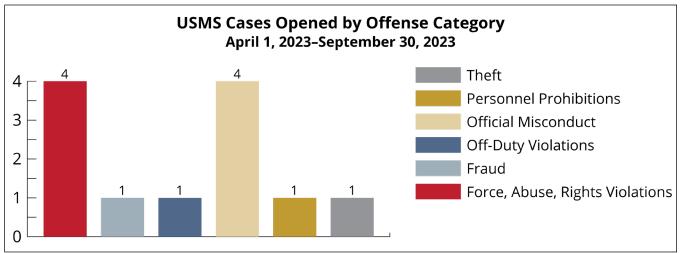
Inspection of FCI Tallahassee

U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE

Investigations

During this reporting period, the OIG received 251 complaints involving the USMS. The most common allegations made against USMS employees were Official Misconduct; Force, Abuse, Rights Violations; and Fraud. The majority of the complaints were considered management issues and were provided to the USMS's Office of Internal Affairs for its review and appropriate action.

During this reporting period, the OIG opened 12 investigations and referred 14 allegations to the USMS's Office of Internal Affairs for its review. At the close of the reporting period, the OIG had 41 open cases of alleged misconduct related to USMS employees. The most common allegation was Official Misconduct.



Source: Investigations Data Management System

The following are examples of investigations involving the USMS that the OIG conducted during this reporting period.

<u>Finding of Misconduct by a then USMS Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal (CDUSM) for Failure to</u> <u>Report Allegation That Another USMS Employee Harassed a USMS Intern in Violation of the</u> <u>Department's Zero Tolerance Policy on Sexual Harassment and USMS Policies</u>

On August 1, 2023, the OIG completed its report of investigation for an investigation initiated upon receipt of an anonymous complaint submitted to the USMS alleging that a then CDUSM failed to report an allegation that another USMS employee sexually harassed a USMS intern that the CDUSM received. The CDUSM retired while the OIG's investigation was ongoing. The investigation was presented for prosecution on January 11, 2022, and declined that same day. The OIG has completed its investigation and provided its report to the USMS for appropriate action.*

Former Contract CO Sentenced for Bribery of a Public Official and Introduction of Contraband

On May 23, 2023, a former USMS Contract CO previously assigned to the Northeast Ohio Correctional Center (NEOCC) in Youngstown, Ohio, was sentenced to 12 months of imprisonment and 2 years of supervised release for one count of bribery of a public official and three counts of providing contraband to an inmate. The CO, who resigned his position after the onset of the investigation, was sentenced in the Northern District of Ohio. According to the factual statement in support of the guilty plea, from on or about February 13, 2017, through on or about July 4, 2019, the CO accepted monetary bribes in exchange for introducing contraband, namely Suboxone, marijuana, and tobacco, into the Northeast Ohio Correctional Center.

Former Deputy U.S. Marshal (DUSM) Sentenced for Conspiracy, Cyberstalking, Perjury, and Obstruction

On June 30, 2023, a former DUSM was sentenced to 121 months of imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release after being convicted at trial of conspiracy to commit cyberstalking, perjury, and obstructing a federal proceeding. The DUSM, who was terminated from his employment by the USMS, was convicted and sentenced in the Central District of California and was immediately remanded into custody following the pronouncement of sentence. According to court documents and evidence presented at trial, the DUSM and his then wife, an unindicted co-conspirator (CC-1), posed as a person with whom the DUSM was formerly in a relationship (Jane Doe). In that guise, they sent themselves harassing and threatening electronic communications that contained apparent threats to harm CC-1; solicited and lured men found through Craigslist "personal" advertisements to engage in so-called "rape fantasies" in an attempt to stage a purported sexual assault on CC-1 orchestrated by Jane Doe; and staged one or more hoax sexual assaults and attempted sexual assaults on CC-1. The DUSM and CC-1 then reported this conduct to local law enforcement, falsely claiming that Jane Doe posed a genuine and serious threat to the DUSM and CC-1.

Former USMS Detention Officer Sentenced for Attempt to Provide Contraband in Prison

On August 29, 2023, a former CoreCivic Detention Officer previously assigned to the Cibola County Correctional Center, a USMS contract facility in Milan, New Mexico, was sentenced to 24 months of imprisonment followed by 3 years of supervised release for one count of attempt to provide contraband in prison. The Detention Officer, who was terminated from his position with CoreCivic, was sentenced in the District of New Mexico. According to the factual statement in support of the guilty plea, on February 22, 2021, the Detention Officer knowingly carried a package of methamphetamine into the Cibola County Correctional Center and concealed it on a shelf with the intent for it to be retrieved by an inmate. Lab tests confirmed that the package contained 103.5 grams of pure methamphetamine.

Ongoing Work

The OIG's ongoing work is available on the OIG website.

Audit of the USMS's Special Deputation Authority

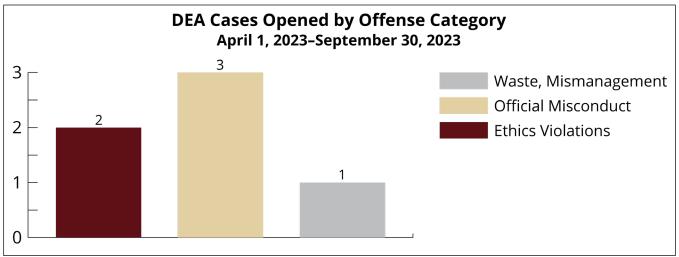
Audit of the USMS's Residential Judicial Security

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

Investigation

During this reporting period, the OIG received 263 complaints involving the DEA. The most common allegation made against DEA employees was Official Misconduct. The majority of the complaints were considered management issues and were provided to the DEA for its review and appropriate action.

During this reporting period, the OIG opened 6 investigations and referred 21 allegations to the DEA's Office of Professional Responsibility for action or investigation. At the close of the reporting period, the OIG had 43 open cases of alleged misconduct related to DEA employees. The most common allegation was Official Misconduct.



Source: Investigations Data Management System

The following is an example of an investigation involving the DEA that the OIG conducted during this reporting period:

DEA SA Convicted of Assault with a Weapon and Carrying a Concealed Weapon While Under the Influence

On September 8, 2023, a DEA SA was found guilty of one count of assault with a weapon and one count of carrying a concealed weapon under the influence. The SA, who is on indefinite suspension from the DEA, was convicted at trial in the Montana Eighteenth Judicial District Court, Gallatin County, Montana. According to court documents and the evidence presented at trial, on or about November 22, 2021, the SA carried a concealed weapon while under the influence of alcohol and pointed the weapon at another individual during an altercation at a bar in Bozeman, Montana.

Management Advisory Memorandum

Notification of Concerns Identified in the DEA's Use of Polygraph Examinations in Preemployment Vetting

The OIG identified significant risks involving the DEA's polygraph program, including hiring SAs and Intelligence Research Specialists who have not successfully completed some or all of the polygraph examination and allowing task force officers who have failed the polygraph examination to remain on DEA Task Forces. The OIG found inconsistencies in the implementation of the DEA's 2019 polygraph policy. Specifically, the OIG found that the DEA hired 77 applicants who did not pass the pre employment polygraph examination because the DEA continued to use job announcements that were issued prior to the 2019 policy. Additionally, the OIG determined the DEA hired and entered on duty at least three SAs who did not meet DEA requirements to fully complete a pre-employment polygraph examination, namely both the Suitability and National Security polygraph. The OIG made five recommendations, and the DEA concurred with all of them.

Ongoing Work

The OIG's ongoing work is available on the OIG website.

Audit of the DEA's Contract Awarded to Ocean Bay Information and Systems Management, LLC

Audit of the DEA's Use of Polygraph Examinations in Pre-employment Vetting

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

Reports Issued

Audit of ATF's Risk-Based Inspection Selection Processes and Administrative Actions Issued to <u>FFLs</u>

As the federal agency responsible for regulating federal firearms licenses, ATF conducts inspections to ensure FFLs operate in compliance with laws and regulations and in a manner that protects public safety. These inspections review an FFL's inventory and transaction records to, among other things, detect and prevent the illegal diversion of firearms and reduce the possibility of firearms being obtained by prohibited persons. The OIG found that although ATF had taken measures to address previous OIG findings related to the effectiveness of ATF's oversight of FFLs, its compliance inspection activity remains a concern. Specifically, the OIG found that ATF is inconsistent when recommending actions for violations found during inspections. Some licensees with repeat, serious violations were allowed to continue their operations. Additionally, ATF relies on a risk-based approach to identify high-risk licensees for inspection. However, the OIG found that ATF has not evaluated the efficacy or validity of its approach nor has it met its projections to inspect licensees with a high risk of noncompliance or exploitation by criminal activity. The OIG made 13 recommendations to ATF to strengthen its compliance inspection activities and its oversight of FFLs, and ATF concurred with all of them.

The OIG released a video message to accompany this report.

Audit of ATF's Accelerant Detection Canine (ADC) Program

ATF's ADC Program provides state and local agencies with canines trained to detect a variety of ignitable liquids that could be used to start and accelerate fire. As of January 2023, the ADC Program included 64 active canine teams working for 54 agencies located across 27 states and the District of Columbia. The OIG concluded that ATF's training and support for ADC Program participants and ADC-trained state and local canine handlers aligns with the goals of this program and ATF's overarching mission. However, the OIG found that ATF did not have performance criteria or reliable performance information that would enable the ADC Program to evaluate its effectiveness. The OIG made two recommendations to ATF to establish metrics to measure the ADC Program's effectiveness and develop guidance and controls to help ensure complete and accurate performance data, and ATF concurred with both of them.

Audit of ATF's Enterprise Standard Architecture Task Order V Awarded to Leidos, Inc. (Leidos)

The OIG identified significant issues with ATF's \$492.7 million contract with Leidos for information technology services that led to cost increases and the government's inability to hold Leidos accountable for poor performance. Federal components expressed dissatisfaction with Leidos' work performance and delays in getting work accomplished due to Leidos contesting that assigned work was out of scope. These delays left risks to government IT systems insufficiently mitigated within required timeframes. The OIG found that the contract's shared cost model and the cost variability may negatively impact agency budgets. Despite federal components descoping services or leaving the program, the overall contract value had increased 85 percent. The OIG made eight recommendations, and ATF concurred

with five recommendations and partially concurred with three recommendations. Leidos partially agreed with one recommendation and stated that it was not in a position to agree or disagree with the remaining recommendations.

Investigations

During this reporting period, the OIG received 279 complaints involving ATF. The most common allegations made against ATF employees were Official Misconduct and Waste, Mismanagement. The majority of the complaints were considered management issues and were provided to ATF for its review and appropriate action.

During this reporting period, the OIG opened 3 investigations and referred 25 allegations to ATF's Office of Professional Responsibility for action or investigation. At the close of the reporting period, the OIG had 12 open criminal or administrative investigations of alleged misconduct related to ATF employees. The investigations included Fraud and Official Misconduct.

Ongoing Work

The OIG's ongoing work is available on the OIG website.

Use of Government-Owned Vehicles for Home to Work Transportation by ATF Headquarters Officials

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Reports Issued

Audit of the OJP's Procurement for the JustGrants System

OJP entered into a \$250 million blanket purchase agreement (BPA) with General Dynamics Information Technology for the procurement of JustGrants. The OIG found that inadequate planning and development process significantly affected OJP's ability to deliver JustGrants as intended. Additionally, by OJP not disclosing the source selection method in the BPA solicitation, the initial cost estimates were significantly understated, resulting in an increase of average labor rates from \$84 to \$158 per hour. The OIG also found agile metrics were not incorporated into the BPA task orders or its monitoring tools, which adversely affected OJP's ability to monitor contractor performance and its compliance with the Prompt Payment Act. The OIG made four recommendations to OJP to improve the solicitation process; effectively measure contractor performance; enhance BPA oversight, monitoring, and administration; and ensure consistent compliance with the Prompt Payment Act. OJP concurred with the recommendations.

Audit of the OJP's Procurement Awarded to ICF Incorporated, LLC, to Support the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center

The OIG determined that OJP could have provided better oversight and administration of the \$51 million procurement awarded to ICF Incorporated, LLC. Specifically, OJP did not have a finalized quality assurance surveillance plan in place until the final month of the 5-year procurement, limiting the assurance that consistent monitoring occurred throughout the procurement. In addition, acquisition planning was not timely or supported by adequate justifications, potentially resulting in the government not receiving the best value available. The OIG found that OJP did not obtain key documents for invoice review, which increases the risk that invoices contain unallowable transactions. Additionally, the OIG identified \$4,176 in unsupported questioned costs related to unsupported travel and consultant labor costs. The OIG made six recommendations to OJP, and OJP agreed with all of them. ICF Incorporated, LLC, only commented on two recommendations, but neither agreed nor disagreed with them.

Audit of the OJP's Administration of the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative (CSSI)

The OIG evaluated OJP, National Institute of Justice's (NIJ) administration and oversight of its CSSI grant program. NIJ has awarded \$246 million in CSSI funds to research the root causes of school violence and evaluate strategies to improve the safety of K-12 public schools. As of September 2022, CSSI had funded the completion of nearly 240 research products that serve as a valuable repository of school safety findings and practices. The OIG found that only a limited amount of CSSI research articles and contents had been identified or made available to the public on NIJ's CSSI online website. Additionally, the OIG found that NIJ could improve its conflict of interest and monitoring procedures. The OIG made three recommendations to OJP, and OJP agreed with all of them.

Audit of the OJP's Civil Rights Complaint Process

The OIG examined OJP's administration of its civil rights complaint process through OJP's Office for Civil Rights (OCR). The OCR's mission is to ensure that recipients of financial assistance from DOJ's grant-making

offices comply with civil rights laws and nondiscrimination provisions. The OIG found that the OCR has a multi-faceted approach to determining whether the civil rights complaints it receives are timely and valid. However, to respond more effectively to pressing civil rights violations and concerns, the OCR should take steps to improve how it solicits, receives, and reviews complaints throughout the process. The OIG's findings relate to: (1) complaint solicitation awareness, (2) collaboration and information sharing, and (3) complaint process and investigation oversight. The OIG made six recommendations to improve OJP's management of OCR's civil rights complaint process, and OJP agreed with all of them.

Audits of Grants to State and Local Entities

During this reporting period, the OIG audited external OJP grant recipients, four of which are described in the following examples:

<u>Audit of the OJP Bureau of Justice Assistance Second Chance Act Smart Reentry Program Grant Awarded to</u> <u>Delaware Criminal Justice Council (CJC), Wilmington, Delaware</u>

The OIG released a report on one grant totaling \$1,000,000 awarded to the CJC for the purpose of developing and implementing comprehensive and collaborative reentry strategies, to increase public safety, and reduce recidivism for individuals reentering communities from incarceration who are at medium to high risk of recidivism. The OIG found that although CJC adequately achieved the goals and objectives of the grant, there was one area for improvement within CJC's grant administration of contracting entities. Specifically, the OIG found that CJC lacked agency-level written policies to make and document procurement decisions in compliance with Delaware state regulations. The OIG made one recommendation to OJP to improve CJC's management of award performance. OJP agreed and CJC concurred with the recommendation.

<u>Audit of the OJP Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Program Grant Awarded to</u> <u>Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Camden, New Jersey</u>

The OIG released a report a grant totaling \$546,727 awarded to Rutgers for the purpose of designing singlecell technology with an inference framework suitable for testing hypotheses on collections of single cell profiles. This would allow for a much more efficient manner in testing DNA evidence. The OIG found that Rutgers generally managed the grant appropriately and demonstrated adequate progress towards the achievement of the grant's stated goal and objective. As a result, the OIG made no recommendations.

<u>Audit of the OJP Cooperative Agreement Awarded to Community Resources for Justice, Incorporated (CRJ),</u> <u>Boston, Massachusetts</u>

The OIG released a report on one cooperative agreement totaling \$8,446,180 awarded to CRJ for the purpose of supporting a multistage process in which a state increases the cost effectiveness of its criminal justice system and reinvest savings into high performing public safety strategies. The OIG found that CRJ could improve certain areas of its grant administration, including fringe benefit, travel expenditures, and subrecipient monitoring. The OIG identified \$30,292 in unsupported questioned costs. The OIG made five recommendations to OJP to improve CRJ's management of award performance, and OJP agreed with all of them. CRJ agreed with two recommendations and neither agreed nor disagreed with the remaining three recommendations.

<u>Audit of the OJP Office for Victims of Crime Cooperative Agreement Awarded to the Sonoma County District</u> <u>Attorney's Office (SCDAO), Santa Rosa, California</u>

The OIG released a report on one cooperative agreement totaling \$850,000 awarded to the SCDAO. The award aimed to assist in improving how victim service providers respond to survivors of polyvictimization, who are generally described as having multiple victimizations of different kinds. While the OIG found that the SCDAO demonstrated adequate progress towards achieving the award's stated goals and objectives, the OIG identified inadequacies related to financial management, special conditions compliance, expenditures involving gift card purchases, indirect costs, and grant financial and performance reports. Additionally, the OIG identified \$6,349 in questioned costs, \$4,572 of which were unsupported costs. The OIG made nine recommendations to OJP, and OJP concurred and the SCDAO agreed with all of them.

Investigations

During this reporting period, the OIG received 26 complaints involving OJP. The most common allegation made against OJP employees, contractors, or grantees was Fraud.

During this reporting period, the OIG opened three investigations and referred zero allegations. At the close of the reporting period, the OIG had 20 open criminal or administrative investigations of alleged misconduct related to OJP employees, contractors, or grantees. The most common allegation was Fraud.

Ongoing Work

The OIG's ongoing work is available on the <u>OIG website</u>.

Audit of the Bureau of Justice Assistance Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program

CRIME VICTIMS FUND

The CVF was established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA) and serves as a major funding source for victim services throughout the country. The fund includes deposits from criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalty fees, and special assessments collected by USAOs, U.S. Courts, and the BOP. OJP's Office for Victims of Crime administers the CVF by sending states and territories funding directly through the VOCA victim assistance and compensation formula grants and awarding discretionary grants to state and local public and private entities to support national-scope projects, training, and technical assistance that enhances the professional expertise of victim service providers. From FYs 2015 through 2023, DOJ distributed more than \$24.9 billion in funding for CVF programs.

The OIG's audits of victims of crime programs have resulted in hundreds of recommendations to improve recipients' administration of CVF-funded grants, enhance program performance, improve monitoring of thousands of subrecipients, and help ensure accountability for billions of CVF dollars. During this semiannual reporting period, the Audit Division issued 18 audits of state VOCA and subaward CVF grant recipients and at the end of the period had 14 ongoing audits of state VOCA and subaward CVF grant recipients. The OIG's state VOCA and subaward CVF grant audits issued this period are described below.

Reports Issued

Audits of CVF Grants

During this reporting period, the OIG released 18 audits of state VOCA and subawards for CVF-funded grant programs, as described below:

<u>Audit of the OJP Victim Assistance Funds Subawarded by the Rhode Island Public Safety Grant Administration</u> <u>Office to Refugee Dream Center (RDC), Providence, Rhode Island</u>

The OIG released a report on three grants totaling \$400,055 subawarded to RDC to support its Breaking Barriers Program, which helps refugee victims of crime break cultural barriers such as stigma, inability to navigate the American society, language challenges, lack of knowledge of relevant places to access services, and misconstrued notions of a victim's rights and protections. The OIG determined that RDC lacked written policies and procedures for its fiscal operations-related requirements imposed under the subawards. The OIG found that all salary and fringe benefits costs charged to the subawards were not adequately supported or were based on budgeted percentages. The OIG identified \$456,094 in unsupported questioned costs. The OIG made seven recommendations to OJP, and OJP and the Public Safety Grant Administration Office agreed with all of them. RDC neither agreed nor disagreed with the recommendations but included completed and planned actions to address each recommendation.

<u>Audit of the OJP Victim Assistance Funds Subawarded by the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet to the</u> <u>Ion Center for Violence Prevention (Ion Center), Covington, Kentucky</u>

The OIG released a report on a subaward totaling over \$1.2 million awarded by the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet to the Ion Center, which provides counseling and crisis intervention sessions, safe

shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault at its two residential shelters, law enforcement and court advocacy, and a 24-hour hotline for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. The OIG identified \$263,250 in unallowable questioned costs related to prevention education services, which was unallowable under guidance available at the time of the grant. The OIG made four recommendations to OJP to remedy questioned costs, clarify federal guidance on prevention education, and improve the Ion Center's management of grant performance, and OJP agreed with all of them. The Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet and the Ion Center concurred with two recommendations, did not concur with one recommendation, and were not required to respond to the remaining recommendation.

<u>Audit of the OJP Victim Assistance Funds Subawarded by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of</u> Justice Programs (Minnesota OJP) to Women of Nations, Incorporated (WON), Saint Paul, Minnesota

The OIG released a report on one subaward totaling \$1,359,841 awarded by the Minnesota OJP to WON for providing emergency shelter services. The OIG found that WON lacked policies on federally required quarterly reporting, was reimbursed for work unrelated to approved subgrant victim services, shared victim information with taxi services, and did not properly track expenditures by federal award within its accounting system. The OIG also determined that WON lacked support for certain personnel expenditures and needed to improve its timesheet approval and procedures. The OIG identified \$223,116 in questioned costs, \$194,187 of which were unsupported personnel costs. The OIG made seven recommendations to DOJ OJP and the Minnesota OJP. The DOJ OJP agreed with all seven recommendations, and the Minnesota OJP agreed with five recommendations and partially agreed with two recommendations. WON concurred with one recommendation, partially concurred with three recommendations, and did not agree with one recommendation.

<u>Audit of the OJP Victim Assistance Funds Subawarded by the Rhode Island Public Safety Administration Office</u> <u>to the Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center (BVAC), Pawtucket, Rhode Island</u>

The OIG released a report on four subawards totaling \$180,066 awarded to BVAC to provide law enforcement advocacy and transitional housing services to domestic violence and sexual assault victims of crime. The OIG identified significant deficiencies with the financial management of its grants. The OIG found that BVAC did not ensure personnel costs reflected actual time spent working on the subawards, charged rent for BVAC-owned rental units, received program income from victims for services, charged costs for idle rental units, did not ensure its facilities maintenance provider costs were appropriately supported, and charged agency-wide costs to a subaward. The OIG identified \$82,241 in questioned costs, \$18,746 of which were unsupported costs. The OIG made a total of nine recommendations to OJP, of which seven were made to BVAC, and OJP agreed with all of them. BVAC concurred with all seven recommendations directed to its program.

<u>Audit of the OJP Victim Assistance Funds Subawarded by the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council</u> (Georgia CJCC) to Women Moving On, Inc. (WMO), Decatur, Georgia

The OIG released a report on three subawards totaling \$1,703,090 made by the Georgia CJCC to WMO. The OIG found WMO assisted victims by providing the services described in its subaward applications but that it lacked the comprehensive financial policies and procedures necessary to ensure compliance with essential subaward conditions related to financial management and did not consistently adhere to the policies that the organization did have in place. Additionally, WMO lacked segregation of duties, circumvented internal control procedures over disbursement of funds, and did not disclose a potential conflict of interest to OJP or the Georgia CJCC. The OIG identified \$76,929 in unsupported questioned costs. The OIG made four recommendations to OJP, and OJP agreed with all of them. The Georgia CJCC agreed with two recommendations, and WMO agreed with the recommendations.

<u>Audit of the OJP Victim Compensation Grants Awarded to the Office of Kansas Attorney General (Kansas AG),</u> <u>Topeka, Kansas</u>

The OIG released a report on three grants totaling \$4,296,000 awarded to the Kansas AG. The OIG identified issues related to Kansas AG's accounting policies and procedures, financial reporting, and drawdowns. Specifically, the OIG found that Kansas AG did not track expenditures for awards separately in its accounting system. Additionally, the OIG identified \$40,772 in unallowable questioned costs. The OIG made five recommendations to OJP, and OJP agreed and Kansas AG concurred with all of them.

Audit of the OJP Victim Assistance Funds Subawarded by the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice (CDCJ) to the Rose Andom Center (RAC), Denver, Colorado

The OIG released a report on one grant totaling \$465,075 subawarded by the CDCJ to the RAC to provide victims of crime with access to domestic violence services through on-site community organizations and government agencies in one location. The OIG determined RAC should strengthen its policies and procedures to ensure accurate financial reporting and accurate tracking of indirect costs. In addition, the OIG determined RAC should also develop and implement policies and procedures to ensure its ridesharing account is effectively safeguarded. Finally, the OIG identified \$6,950 in unsupported questioned costs. The OIG made four recommendations to OJP and CDCJ, and OJP agreed with and CDCJ concurred with all of them. RAC did not dispute three of the recommendations and neither concurred with nor disputed the fourth recommendation. RAC included planned actions to address all recommendations.

Audit of the OJP Victim Assistance Funds Subawarded by the Oregon Department of Justice (Oregon DOJ) to J Bar J Youth Services (J Bar J), Bend, Oregon

The OIG released a report on one subaward totaling \$590,390 awarded by the Oregon DOJ to J Bar J to provide services to human trafficking victims of crime throughout central Oregon. The OIG determined that J Bar J could improve certain areas of its grant management. Specifically, J Bar J did not include any performance achievements from its subgrantee on performance reports and it commingled its federal funds with state funds. Additionally, the OIG identified \$6,601 in questioned costs for charging employee bonuses to the subaward. The OIG made six recommendations to OJP and Oregon DOJ. OJP and J Bar J agreed with and Oregon DOJ concurred with all of them.

Audit of the OJP Victim Compensation Grants Awarded to the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (North Dakota DCR), Bismarck, North Dakota

The OIG released a report on four grants totaling \$527,000 awarded to the North Dakota DCR. The OIG found that the North Dakota DCR should enhance its controls over victim compensation claim payments as well as its annual state certification form submissions. The OIG noted that the North Dakota DCR could improve its outreach activities to ensure victims are made aware of the potential financial assistance available to the program as well as improving the consistency in which North Dakota formally communicates to victims about denied claims. Additionally, the OIG identified \$5,048 in unsupported questioned costs. The OIG made seven recommendations to OJP. OJP agreed with all seven recommendations, and the North Dakota DCR did not state whether it agreed or disagreed with the seven recommendations but included actions taken or planned to address each recommendation.

<u>Audit of the OJP Victim Compensation Grants Awarded to the Guam Office of the Attorney General (Guam</u> <u>OAG), Tamuning, Guam</u>

The OIG released a report on three grants totaling \$222,000 awarded to the Guam OAG. The OIG found that the Guam OAG was not operating its program in compliance with VOCA grant requirements. Specifically,

the Guam OAG was publicly adjudicating victim compensation claims featuring the public appearance of victims and dissemination of personally identifiable information. The OIG also found that the Guam OAG did not notify applicants of their victim compensation claim eligibility within 20 business days as required by the Guam OAG. On average, it took 175 days to notify applicants. Lastly, the OIG identified \$2,554 in unsupported questioned costs. The OIG made six recommendations to OJP, and OJP agreed with all of them. The Guam OAG neither agreed nor disagreed with the recommendations but included actions taken or planned to address each recommendation.

<u>Audit of the OJP Victim Compensation Grants Awarded to the Alabama Crime Victims Compensation</u> <u>Commission (Alabama CVCC), Montgomery, Alabama</u>

The OIG released a report on three OJP grants totaling over \$4.5 million awarded to the Alabama CVCC. The OIG found that though the Alabama CVCC compensated victims and survivors of criminal violence, it needs to improve controls over reporting. Specifically, the Alabama CVCC did not implement adequate procedures to compile and submit accurate annual performance reports and state certification forms, increasing the risk that the Alabama CVCC provided an incomplete description of the value and benefits of its program. The OIG made three recommendations to OJP to improve Alabama CVCC's management of grant performance, and OJP agreed and the Alabama CVCC concurred with all of them.

<u>Audit of the OJP Victim Assistance Grants Awarded to the New York Office of Victim Services (NY OVS), Albany,</u> <u>New York</u>

The OIG released a report on two grants totaling \$331,383,703 awarded to the NY OVS, which coordinates with criminal justice agencies in New York on victim and witness service initiatives and priorities and serves as a liaison for the agency with various crime victim coalitions, federal authorities, the public, and other interested parties. The OIG determined that NY OVS should improve subgrant data reporting, written policies and procedures, subrecipient monitoring, and utilization of its VOCA funds to reduce the amount of unspent funding. The OIG made four recommendations to OJP and NY OVS, and OJP agreed with all of them. NY OVS agreed with three of them and disagreed with one recommendation, for which it provided corrective actions and requested closure of the recommendation.

<u>Audit of the OJP Victim Assistance Funds Subawarded by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services</u> (Virginia DCJS) to the Alexandria Sexual Assault Center and Domestic Violence Program (Alexandria SADV <u>Program), Alexandria, Virginia</u>

The OIG released a report on a \$1,012,418 grant, subawarded by the Virginia DCJS to the Alexandria SADV Program for the purpose of providing a variety of support to victims of crime, to include offering help filing restraining orders, counseling in crises arising from the occurrence of crime, crisis intervention, and emergency shelter in Alexandria, Virginia. The OIG found that the Alexandria SADV Program achieved the grant goals and objectives to serve victims; however, the Alexandria SADV Program could implement a process to distinguish and track the source of subaward expenses between federal and state financial assistance. The OIG made one recommendation to OJP and Virginia DCJS, and OJP and the Virginia DCJS agreed with it. The Alexandria SADV Program neither agreed nor disagreed with the recommendation and requested that the recommendation be withdrawn.

Audit of the OJP Victim Assistance Grants Awarded to the New Hampshire Department of Justice (NH DOJ), Concord, New Hampshire

The OIG released a report on two grants totaling \$16.9 million awarded to the NH DOJ. The OIG found that the NH DOJ obligated, disbursed, and managed funds to support its victim assistance program. However,

the OIG identified opportunities for NH DOJ to enhance its subrecipient monitoring and written policies and procedures. The OIG made three recommendations to OJP to address these deficiencies, and OJP agreed and NH DOJ concurred with all of them.

Audit of the OJP Victim Assistance Funds Subawarded by the Wisconsin Department of Justice to CAP Services, Incorporated (CAP Services), Stevens Point, Wisconsin

The OIG released a report on three grants totaling \$1.7 million subawarded by the Wisconsin Department of Justice to CAP Services. OJP awarded a grant in 2020 to the Wisconsin Department of Justice, as the state administering agency, to make subawards for the purpose of providing direct victim services across the state. The OIG found no indications that CAP Services was not providing services, such as counseling, medical and court accompaniment, and shelter, to victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault. Additionally, the OIG determined that CAP Services implemented adequate financial management controls and properly spent tested funds on allowable costs. Therefore, the OIG did not make any recommendations.

<u>Audit of the OJP Victim Assistance Funds Subawarded by the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation</u> <u>Commission to The Life Link, Santa Fe, New Mexico</u>

The OIG released a report on two subgrants totaling \$476,143 subawarded by the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission to The Life Link. The OIG found that The Life Link provided relocation assistance to victims of human trafficking and employed advocates to serve victims in the state of New Mexico. The OIG determined that The Life Link adhered to guidance related to program performance and accomplishments and grant financial management. As a result, the OIG made no recommendations.

<u>Audit of the OJP Victim Assistance Funds Subawarded by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services</u> <u>to the Legal Aid Justice Center, Charlottesville, Virginia</u>

The OIG released a report on a grant totaling \$677,705 subawarded to the Legal Aid Justice Center to provide services to immigrant victims of workplace crimes of violence across Virginia with a particular emphasis on farmworkers. The OIG found that the Legal Aid Justice Center adhered to guidance related to program performance and accomplishments and grant financial management. Therefore, the OIG did not make any recommendations.

<u>Audit of the OJP Victim Compensation Grants Awarded to the Arkansas Department of Public Safety (Arkansas DPS), Little Rock, Arkansas</u>

The OIG released a report on three grants totaling \$2,746,000 awarded to the Arkansas DPS to provide financial support through the payment of compensation benefits to crime victims throughout Arkansas. The OIG found that Arkansas DPS needs to improve controls to administer the program more effectively. Specifically, the OIG found that the Arkansas DPS did not pay an approved claim due to its practice of requiring victims to provide a social security or visa number to receive direct compensation payments. The OIG also found that Arkansas DPS did not implement adequate procedures to compile accurate performance reports and state certification forms. The OIG made four recommendations to OJP, and OJP agreed and the Arkansas DPS concurred with all of them.

OTHER DEPARTMENT COMPONENTS

Investigations

The following are examples of investigations that the OIG conducted during this reporting period:

Findings of Misconduct by an OIG Supervisory Employee for Failing to Timely Report the Employee's Arrest for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol

On August 10, 2022, the OIG completed its investigation into an OIG supervisory employee after the OIG found indications that the supervisory employee had failed to timely report an arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol, as required by OIG and DOJ policy. DOJ and OIG policy require, respectively, that employees report any arrest immediately/within no more than 3 days. The OIG investigation concluded that the supervisory employee failed to timely report the employee's arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol, in violation of OIG and DOJ policy. The OIG issued the supervisory employee a Letter of Caution, which placed the employee on notice about the conduct in question and that any future incidents of this nature could result in formal disciplinary action, up to and including removal from federal service. The investigation was administrative and not presented for prosecution.*

<u>Findings of Misconduct by an OIG Supervisory Employee for Failing to Report an Arrest,</u> <u>Outstanding Debt, and Court Appearances, and Engaging in Conduct Prejudicial to the</u> <u>Government</u>

On December 16, 2022, the OIG completed its investigation of an OIG supervisory employee after the OIG found indications that the supervisory employee had failed to timely report an arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol; and failed to report outstanding debts and court appearances, as required by OIG and DOJ policy. The OIG further found indications that the supervisory employee had engaged in conduct prejudicial to the government during the course of the employee's arrest. The OIG imposed 5 days of suspension without pay on the supervisory employee. The investigation was administrative and not presented for prosecution.*

Former Court Appointed Special Advocates Case Manager Pleaded Guilty and Sentenced for Forgery and Theft of Property from an Agency Receiving DOJ Grant Funds

On April 18, 2023, a former Court Appointed Special Advocates Case Manager pleaded guilty to one count of forgery and one count of theft of property, and was sentenced to 120 months of supervised probation, fined \$1,000, and ordered to pay \$36,634.10 in restitution. The Case Manager, who was terminated from her position with the 14th Judicial District of Arkansas, pleaded guilty and was sentenced in Circuit Court in Boone County, Arkansas. According to the affidavit in support of the arrest warrant, from in or about April 2017 through in or about July 2019, the Case Manager knowingly misappropriated funds from Court Appointed Special Advocates, an agency receiving DOJ grant funds, for her personal benefit and falsified documents in connection with the scheme. In total, the Case Manager misappropriated approximately \$43,634.10.

Former Arkansas State Senator Sentenced for Conspiracy in Connection with a Nonprofit Receiving DOJ Funds

On April 25, 2023, a former Arkansas State Senator was sentenced to 50 months of imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release, as well as ordered to pay a money judgment of \$468,125 for one count of conspiracy. The former Senator was sentenced in the Western District of Missouri. According to the factual statement in support of the guilty plea, from in or about 2012 through in or about 2017, the former Senator conspired to receive payments, travel, entertainment, and legal work in exchange for legislative and official action favorable to Preferred Family Healthcare, a healthcare charity that received DOJ funding.

Former President of Nonprofit Organization Receiving Federal Funds Sentenced for Theft from Employee Benefit Plan

On August 7, 2023, the former President of Social Services Interagency Council of Lake Havasu City, an entity that received Office of Justice Programs, Victims of Crime Act grant money, was sentenced to 60 months of probation, a fine of \$7,500, and a restitution amount to be determined at a later date for two counts of theft from an employee benefit plan. The former President, who resigned his position at the onset of the investigation, was sentenced in the District of Arizona. According to the factual statement in support of the guilty plea, the former President directed funds from employee paychecks, which were meant to be remitted for the employees' retirement plan and to medical providers for medical coverage, to be misapplied for payroll, to pay a settlement with a Social Services Interagency Council of Lake Havasu City employee, and to make a direct payment to himself, knowing he was not entitled to divert these funds for expenses unrelated to the employee benefit plans.

Community Relations Service

Report Issued

Audit of the CRS's Contracting Activities

The OIG reviewed nine CRS contracts totaling over \$31 million that were intended to help support CRS's mission. The OIG identified deficiencies in CRS's execution of its contract acquisition, administration, and oversight responsibilities that can cause an increased risk of failing to safeguard the federal government's financial interests. The OIG found that CRS did not complete written acquisition plans or market research, as required by the Federal Acquisition Regulation. Additionally, the OIG identified issues concerning the adequacy of CRS's invoice review process, including untimely payments and the approval of invoices with excessive labor hours that appeared to be unreasonable. The OIG further found that CRS directed a contractor to make purchases that were not tied to a specific contract deliverable or work requirement. The OIG made four recommendations, and CRS agreed with all of them.

Criminal Division

Report Issued

Audit of Equitable Sharing Program Activities

The DOJ Equitable Sharing Program allows state or local law enforcement agencies that directly participate in an investigation or prosecution resulting in a federal forfeiture to claim a portion of federally forfeited cash, property, and proceeds. During this reporting period, the OIG released one audit of Equitable Sharing Program participants, as described below:

<u>Audit of the New York City Department of Investigation's (NYC DOI) Equitable Sharing Program Activities,</u> <u>New York, New York</u>

The OIG released a report on NYC DOI's Equitable Sharing Program activities for FYs 2017 to 2021. The NYC DOI began the audit period with a balance of \$16,627,342, received an additional \$4,964,521 in equitable sharing revenue, and expended \$16,637,112 in equitable sharing funds. The OIG found deficiencies in the NYC DOI's internal controls for safeguarding equipment, such as not maintaining complete property records and not conducting physical inspections at least every 2 years. Additionally, the OIG found NYC DOI lacked adequate procedures to ensure accurate reporting on its Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification reports and did not retain documentation to support the accuracy of the federal expenditures it reported for Single Audits. The OIG made three recommendations, and the Criminal Division concurred with all of them. The NYC DOI neither explicitly agreed nor disagreed with the three recommendations.

Investigation

The following is an example of an investigation that the OIG conducted during this reporting period:

Finding of Misconduct by a then Criminal Division Attorney for Working on a Matter Involving a Former Client, and for Making False Statements and Lacking Candor During an OIG Interview

On August 22, 2023, the OIG completed its report of investigation for an investigation initiated upon the receipt of information from the Criminal Division alleging that a then Criminal Division attorney violated government ethics regulations when the attorney worked on a matter involving a client the attorney had previously represented while in private practice. During the course of the investigation, the OIG found indications that the attorney may have made false statements under oath to the OIG. The attorney resigned from the Department while the OIG's investigation was ongoing. The investigation was presented for prosecution on February 7, 2019, and declined on April 22, 2021. It was again presented for prosecution on May 28, 2021, and declined on February 14, 2022. The OIG has completed its investigation and provided its report to the Criminal Division for its information and the Department's Professional Misconduct Review Unit for appropriate action.*

Executive Office for United States Attorneys

Investigations

The following are examples of investigations that the OIG conducted during this reporting period:

<u>Findings of Misconduct by an AUSA for Sexually Inappropriate Comments to Multiple</u> <u>Colleagues and Attempted Witness Tampering</u>

On March 29, 2023, the OIG completed its report of investigation for an investigation initiated after receiving information from the Executive Office for United States Attorneys alleging that an AUSA may have engaged in sexual misconduct directed at a colleague. During its investigation, the OIG found indications that the AUSA also may have engaged in sexual harassment by making and sending sexually explicit comments to multiple colleagues and may have attempted to tamper with a witness during the OIG's investigation. The investigation was presented for state prosecution on June 24, 2020, and declined on June 18, 2021. It was then presented for federal prosecution on October 15, 2021, and declined that same day. The OIG has completed its investigation and provided its report to the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and DOJ's Professional Misconduct Review Unit for appropriate action.*

An Investigation of Alleged Misconduct by United States Attorney Rachael Rollins

On May 17, 2023, the OIG issued a report describing an investigation of alleged misconduct by U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts Rachael Rollins. The evidence the OIG obtained substantiated multiple allegations concerning Rollins. Most concerning, the OIG found that Rollins used her position as U.S Attorney and used non-public DOJ information available to her by virtue of her position as U.S. Attorney, in an effort to influence the outcome of an election, in violation of the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch, as well as Department policy and the obligations under the Ethics Agreement she signed after her nomination as U.S. Attorney. The OIG also found that Rollins actively participated in a partisan political campaign, in violation of Department policy that further restricts the political activity of noncareer officials, including U.S. Attorneys and that she knowingly and willfully made a false statement of material fact and lacked candor during her OIG interview. The OIG also found that, among other things, Rollins attended a partisan political fundraiser without approval from the Deputy Attorney General, or her designee, as required by Department policy, and her attendance was contrary to the ethics advice she received before the event.

Former AUSA Sentenced for Conflict-of-Interest Violation

On July 26, 2023, a former AUSA was sentenced to 6 months of probation and fined \$500 for one count of acts affecting a personal financial interest. The AUSA, who resigned after her arrest, was sentenced in the Northern District of Florida. According to the factual statement in support of the guilty plea, from on or about August 22, 2018, through on or about February 26, 2021, the AUSA directed contracts from the USAO for the Northern District of Florida to companies in which her spouse had a financial interest, including while she served as chief of the office's Civil Division; the AUSA concealed her spouse's financial interest in contracts to conduct title searches in litigation defended by the USAO; and the AUSA's spouse then deposited money derived from the contracts into the AUSA's and her spouse's joint bank account.

Executive Office for Immigration Review

Investigation

The following is an example of an investigation that the OIG conducted during this reporting period:

Finding of Misconduct by an Immigration Judge in the Executive Office for Immigration Review for Making Inappropriate, Sexually Oriented Comments to a Department of Justice Employee During an After-hours Social Gathering

On September 19, 2023, the OIG completed its report of investigation for an investigation initiated after receiving information from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, alleging that an Immigration Judge may have made inappropriate comments to a DOJ employee during an after-hours social gathering. The investigation was presented for prosecution on November 30, 2021, and declined that same day. The OIG has completed its investigation and provided its report to the Executive Office for Immigration Review and the Department's Professional Misconduct Review Unit for appropriate action.*

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

Ongoing Work

The OIG's ongoing work is available on the OIG website.

Audit of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services COPS Hiring Program

U.S. Trustee Program

Ongoing Work

The OIG's ongoing work is available on the OIG website.

Audit of the U.S. Trustee Program's Administration of the Panel Trustee and Debtor Audit Programs and Associated Procurements Awarded to Tronconi Segarra & Associates LLP

TOP MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE CHALLENGES

Since 1998 the OIG has published an annual report on the top management and performance challenges facing DOJ. The report is based on the OIG's oversight work, research, and judgment. By statute, this report is required to be included in DOJ's annual Agency Financial Report.

This year's report identifies seven challenges that the OIG believes represent the most pressing concerns for DOJ:

- 1. Strengthening Public Trust in the U.S. Department of Justice,
- 2. Strategic Management and Operational Challenges in the Federal Corrections System,
- 3. Promoting and Safeguarding National Security,
- 4. Cybersecurity and Emerging Technology,
- 5. Pursuing the U.S. Department of Justice's Law Enforcement Mission While Protecting Civil Rights and Civil Liberties,
- 6. Improving the Management and Oversight of U.S. Department of Justice Contracts and Grants, and
- 7. Effectively Managing Human Capital.

While these challenges are not rank ordered, the OIG believes that strengthening the public's trust remains vitally important for the Department, as confidence in the Department as an institution and its employees is essential to fulfilling the Department's mission to uphold the rule of law, keep our country safe, and protect civil rights. Another perennial issue that has reached a critical level is the Department's need to address the escalating strategic management and operational challenges facing a federal correction system beset by deteriorating facilities, staffing challenges, and concerns over institutional safety and security and healthcare. The deaths of prominent inmates in federal custody have heightened public concern about the Department's ability to fulfill basic mission requirements.

Additionally, the Department must continue to promote and safeguard national security as it works to counter acts of terrorism and violent extremism, hold international criminal networks accountable for crimes, and ensure the nation's elections are secure and free from foreign influence. Increasingly

sophisticated cyber criminals and the rapid advancement of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, will require the Department to enhance its cybersecurity strategy and better safeguard sensitive data and information systems. The Department will also need to continue carefully balancing keeping the American people safe against its responsibility to protect civil rights and civil liberties, which are also fundamentally important. And, as the Department strives to protect vulnerable communities against violent crime, opioids and other narcotics, and child exploitation, it must also ensure that adequate oversight and accountability measures over law enforcement are robust and effective.

To maximize taxpayer dollars, the Department must continue to ensure that the management of DOJ contracts and grants comply with federal law and requirements. Lastly, the Department's ability to hire and retain top talent next year and beyond will depend, in part, on its strategy for managing the sizeable number of federal workers that will soon be eligible for retirement, return to work preferences expressed by a considerable percentage of DOJ employees, compliance with hiring laws, rules, and regulations, and the ability to address allegations of sexual harassment and discrimination quickly and appropriately.

Detailed information about DOJ's management and performance challenges is available on the OIG website.

TESTIMONY/LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Congressional Testimony

During this reporting period, the Inspector General testified on one occasion:

"Fixing FISA: How a Law Designed to Protect Americans Has Been Weaponized Against Them," before the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance on April 27, 2023.

Legislation and Regulations

The IG Act directs the OIG to review proposed legislation and regulations relating to the programs and operations of DOJ. Although DOJ's Office of Legislative Affairs reviews all proposed or enacted legislation that could affect DOJ's activities, the OIG independently reviews proposed legislation that could affect its operations and legislation that relate to waste, fraud, or abuse in DOJ's programs and operations. For example, during this period the OIG reviewed legislation related to the Senate's draft NDAA section 1514 and the FISMA Act of 2023.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION COORDINATOR PROGRAM

Whistleblowers perform a critical role when they bring forward evidence of wrongdoing, and they should never suffer reprisal for doing so. The OIG <u>Whistleblower Protection Coordinator Program</u> works to ensure that whistleblowers are fully informed of their rights and protections from reprisal.

During this reporting period, the DOJ OIG Whistleblower Protection Coordinator participated in an OIG community event to educate OIG employees about their whistleblower rights and protections, and the role of the Whistleblower Protection Coordinator. CIGIE developed this event in response to the congressional passage of Section 5204 of the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, which requires CIGIE and the OIG Whistleblower Protection Coordinators to ensure that all OIG employees are fully informed about their whistleblower rights and protections. Recognizing the importance of this requirement, the event provided information to the OIG community about the role of the Integrity Committee in assessing allegations of misconduct by Inspectors General and other senior OIG personnel and the role of Whistleblower Protection Coordinators in educating OIG personnel about their rights and protections. Congress recognized, and the community reinforced, the need for Whistleblower Protection Coordinators to not only educate agency employees, but also to empower OIG employees to make protected disclosures when necessary. It is critical that OIGs uphold and promote the same whistleblower rights and protections as the agencies they oversee.

April 1, 2023-September 30, 2023

Employee complaints received ⁷	606
Employee complaints opened for investigation by the OIG	114
Employee complaints that were referred by the OIG to the components for investigation	313
Employee complaint cases closed by the OIG ⁸	115

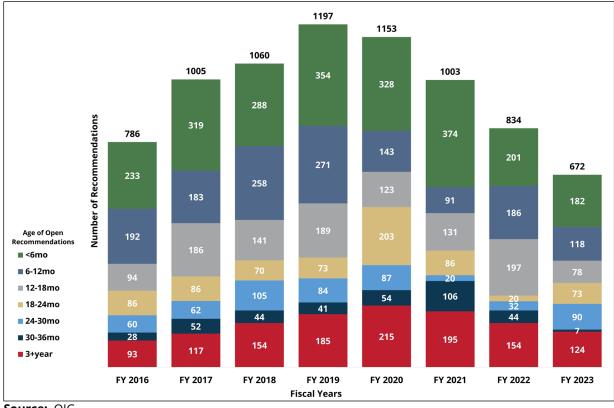
⁷ Employee complaint is defined as an allegation received from whistleblowers, defined broadly as complaints received from employees and applicants with the Department, or its contractors, subcontractors, or grantees, either received directly from the complainant by the OIG Hotline, the field offices, or others in the OIG, or from a DOJ component if the complaint otherwise qualifies and is opened as an investigation.

⁸ This number reflects cases closed during the reporting period regardless of when they were opened.

OPEN RECOMMENDATIONS

As part of the OIG's mission to promote accountability and transparency in DOJ, the OIG periodically publishes a list of its open recommendations to DOJ, i.e., the OIG recommendations that DOJ has not fully implemented as of the reporting date. The most recent report of recommendations not closed by the OIG as of September 30, 2023, is available on the OIG website <u>here</u> and on <u>Oversight.gov</u>.

As of September 30, 2023, DOJ had 672 open OIG recommendations, which the OIG associated with the following statuses at that time: (1) resolved (593 recommendations), (2) on hold/pending with OIG (78 recommendations), and (3) response not yet due (1 recommendation). The recommendations in this report are associated with approximately \$50,605,504 in questioned costs and over \$734,971 in funds that the OIG recommends could be used more efficiently if repurposed by the agency.⁹



Number of OIG Open Recommendations by Fiscal Year (As of Close of Fiscal Year)

⁹ This information omits recommendations that DOJ determined to be classified or sensitive, and therefore unsuitable for public release. Definitions of each status category are available in "Appendix 2, Glossary of Terms."

Source: OIG

In addition to publishing its list of open recommendations, the OIG identifies what it considers its highest priority open recommendations on <u>Oversight.gov</u>. These priority recommendations are those the OIG believes, when implemented, will have the most benefit or impact to the DOJ's mission, operations, programs, or funds. Factors the OIG considers when identifying priority recommendations include monetary impact; reduction of waste, fraud, abuse, or misconduct; impact on program efficiency and effectiveness; impact on health, safety, national security, or the economy; current value to policy makers; and the recommendation's relationship to a high-profile area such as OIG top management challenges, agency strategic priorities, CIGIE top challenges, congressional interest, and global or national emergencies. At the close of this reporting period, the OIG had identified the priority open recommendations outlined in the table below on Oversight.gov.

Report Number and Date	Report Title	Rec. No.	Recommendation	
			The OIG recommended that the BOP develop a comprehensive strategic plan for transitioning to a fully digital security camera system that, among other things:	
22-001 (October 2021)	Notifications of Needed Upgrades to the BOP's Security Camera	1	a. Identifies enhancements needed to address camera functionality and coverage deficiencies,	
х , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	<u>System</u> *		 Provides cost projections and the BOP appropriations account to fund the upgrades, and 	
			c. Includes estimated timeline for completion of the work.	
21-129 (September 2021)	Audit of the FBI's Execution of Its Woods Procedures for Applications Filed with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court Relating to U.S. Persons	4	The OIG recommended that the FBI develop and implement policy that describes the expectations for supervisory review of Woods Files. Specifically, this policy should clearly convey the requirement for reviewers to confirm support for all statements of fact in each application and provide for better evidence of the supervisory review process that goes beyond simply signing the Woods Form. As part of this policy modification, the FBI should also consider options for incorporating an element of independent verification of the Woods File during the FISA application process.	
21-093 (July 2021)	Investigation and Review of the FBI's Handling of Allegations of Sexual Abuse by Former USA Gymnastics Physician Lawrence Gerard Nassar	1a	The OIG recommended that the FBI more precisely describe for FBI employees when they are required to promptly contact and coordinate with applicable state and local law enforcement and social service agencies after receiving allegations of crimes against children that potentially fall under state jurisdiction, even when the allegations also potentially fall within the FBI's jurisdiction.	

STATISTICS

Detailed Descriptions of Inspections, Evaluations, Audits, or Investigations Closed but Not Publicly Disclosed

- The OIG closed two investigations without public disclosure that involved allegations
 of misconduct by two senior government employees of the BOP. These investigations
 included allegations of physical abuse and inappropriate relationships which were
 ultimately unsubstantiated.
- The OIG closed one investigation without public disclosure that involved allegations of misconduct by one senior government employee of the ATF. The investigation included an allegation of inappropriate relationships that was ultimately unsubstantiated.
- The OIG closed one investigation without public disclosure that involved allegations of misconduct by one senior government employee of the FBI. The investigation included an allegation of misuse of position that was ultimately unsubstantiated.
- The OIG closed one investigation without public disclosure that involved allegations of misconduct by one senior government employee of the EOUSA. The investigation included an allegation of financial crimes that was ultimately unsubstantiated.
- The OIG closed one investigation without public disclosure that involved allegations of misconduct by one senior government employee of the DEA. The investigation included allegations of misuse of position and job performance failure that were ultimately unsubstantiated.

Evaluation and Inspections Workload and Accomplishments

The following table summarizes the workload and accomplishments of the Evaluation and Inspections Division during the 6-month reporting period ending September 30, 2023:

Workload and Accomplishments	Number of Reviews
Reviews active at beginning of period	7
Reviews cancelled	0
Reviews initiated	1
Final reports issued ¹⁰	4
Reviews active at end of reporting period	4

Investigations Statistics

The following table summarizes the workload and accomplishments of the Investigations Division during the 6-month period ending September 30, 2023:

Source of Allegations ¹¹	
Hotline (telephone, mail, and email)	3,377
Other Sources	4,449
Total Allegations Received	7,826
Investigative Caseload	
Investigations Opened this Period	93
Investigations Closed and Reports of Investigation Issued this Period ¹²	125
Investigations in Progress as of September 30, 2023	510

¹⁰ The OIG's survey on Inmate Perceptions of the BOP's Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic was a collaborative effort of the Evaluation and Inspections and Audit Divisions.

¹¹ These figures represent allegations entered into the OIG's complaint tracking system. They do not include the approximate 6,418 additional hotline, email, and phone contacts that were processed and deemed non-jurisdictional and/or outside the purview of the federal government.

¹² At the conclusion of an investigation, one or more types of report are prepared. The prepared report may be an abbreviated report of investigation or a full report of investigation. In addition, an investigative summary for public posting on the OIG website may be prepared for an investigation involving a senior government employee. The number of reports issued represents one report for each investigation.

Prosecutive Actions		
Criminal Indictments/Informations ¹³	40	
Arrests	42	
Convictions/Pleas	44	
Prosecutions Referred to the DOJ ¹⁴	136	
Prosecutions referred to State and Local Prosecutors ¹⁵	9	
Administrative Actions		
Terminations	28	
Resignations	32	
Disciplinary Action	24	
Monetary Results		
Fines/Restitutions/Recoveries/Assessments/Forfeitures	\$4,536,842.58	
Civil Fines/Restitutions/Recoveries/Penalties/Damages/Forfeitures	\$934,788.60	
Non-judicial Restitutions/Recoveries/Forfeitures/Revocations/Seizures	\$565,361.23	

Investigations Division Briefing Programs

OIG investigators conducted 139 Integrity Awareness Briefings for Department employees and other stakeholders throughout the country. These briefings are designed to educate employees and other stakeholders about the misuse of a public official's position for personal gain and to deter employees from committing such offenses. The briefings reached more than 2,744 employees.

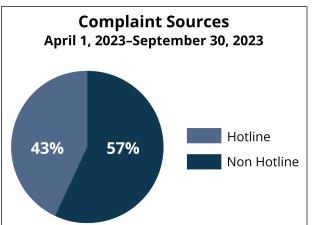
¹³ The number of indictments reported include both sealed and not sealed.

¹⁴ This number includes all criminal and civil referrals to DOJ for a prosecutorial decision, whether they were ultimately accepted or declined with the caveat that, if an investigation was referred to more than one DOJ office for a prosecutorial decision, the referral to DOJ was counted only once. The number reported as referred represents referrals for both individuals and or other legal entities.

¹⁵ The number reported as referred represents referrals for both individuals and/or other legal entities.

OIG Hotline

During FY 2023, the OIG received most of its hotline complaints through its electronic complaint form.



Source: Investigations Data Management System

and appropriate action; 288 were filed for information; 112 were forwarded to other federal agencies; and 6 were opened by the OIG for investigation.

In addition, DOJ employees and citizens can file

complaints by telephone, fax, email, and postal mail.

The online access, email, fax, and postal mail all provide the ability to file a complaint in writing to the OIG.

From all hotline sources during the first half of FY 2023, 3,377 new complaints related to DOJ operations or other

federal agencies were entered into the OIG's complaint

forwarded to various DOJ components for their review

tracking system. Of the new complaints, 2,766 were

Approximately 6,418 additional hotline, email, and phone contacts were processed and deemed nonjurisdictional and outside the purview of the federal government and therefore were not entered into the OIG's complaint tracking system.

APPENDICES

1 Acronyms and Abbreviations

ASAC	Assistant Special Agent in Charge
ATF	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
ВОР	Federal Bureau of Prisons
CDUSM	Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal
со	Correctional Officer
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CVF	Crime Victims Fund
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration
DOJ or Department	U.S. Department of Justice
DUSM	Deputy U.S. Marshal
DVE	Domestic Violent Extremism
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FCI	Federal Correctional Institution
FFL	Federal Firearms Licensees
FISMA	Federal Information Security Modernization Act
FY	Fiscal Year
IG Act	Inspector General Act of 1978
МАМ	Management Advisory Memorandum
MCC New York	Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York, New York
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
OJP	Office of Justice Programs
ОМВ	Office of Management and Budget

PRAC	Pandemic Response Accountability Committee
SA	Special Agent
USAO	United States Attorney's Office
USMS	U.S. Marshals Service
VOCA	Victims of Crime Act of 1984

2 Glossary of Terms

The following are definitions of specific terms as they are used in this report:

Administrative Actions: Term that encompasses actions taken against an employee, contractor, or grant recipient, including disciplinary action, termination, debarment, and loss of funding, and can also include an employee's or contractor's resignation or retirement.

Cooperative Agreement: Term used to describe when the awarding agency expects to be substantially involved with the award's activities, often used interchangeably with "grant."

Contraband: 28 C.F.R. § 500.1(h) defines contraband as "material prohibited by law, regulation, or policy that can reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or adversely affect the safety, security, or good order of the facility or protection of the public." Contraband includes weapons, explosives, drugs, intoxicants, currency, cameras, recording equipment, telephones, radios, pagers, electronic devices, and any other objects that violate criminal laws or are prohibited by federal regulations or BOP policies.

Disallowed Cost: The IG Act defines "disallowed cost" as a "questioned cost that management, in a management decision, has sustained or agreed should not be charged to the Government."

Equitable Sharing Program: This program allows state or local law enforcement agencies that directly participate in an investigation or prosecution resulting in a federal forfeiture to claim a portion of federally forfeited cash, property, and proceeds.

Funds Recommended to Be Put to Better Use: Recommendation by the OIG that funds could be used more efficiently if management of an entity took actions to start and complete the recommendation, including: (1) reductions in outlays; (2) deobligation of funds from programs or operations; (3) withdrawal of interest subsidy costs on loans or loan guarantees, insurance, or bonds; (4) costs not incurred by implementing recommended improvements related to the operations of the entity, a contractor, or grantee; (5) avoidance of unnecessary expenditures noted in pre-award reviews of contract or grant agreements; or (6) any other savings that specifically are identified.

Management Decision: The IG Act defines "management decision" as the "evaluation by the management of an establishment of the findings and recommendations included in an audit report and the issuance of a final decision by management concerning its response to such findings and recommendations, including actions concluded to be necessary."

Questioned Cost: A cost that is questioned by the OIG because of: (1) an alleged violation of a provision of a law, regulation, contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or other agreement or document governing the expenditure of funds; (2) a finding that, at the time of the audit, such cost is not supported by adequate documentation; or (3) a finding that the expenditure of funds for the intended purpose is unnecessary or unreasonable.

Supervised Release: Court-monitored supervision upon release from incarceration.

Unsupported Cost: A cost that is questioned by the OIG because the OIG found that, at the time of the audit, the cost was not supported by adequate documentation.

3 Peer Reviews

Peer Reviews Conducted by Another OIG

Audit Division

The most recent peer review of the Audit Division was performed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security OIG. In the U.S. Department of Homeland Security OIG's System Review Report issued April 4, 2022, the DOJ OIG received a peer review rating of *pass* for its system of quality control in effect for the year ending September 30, 2021. The System Review Report did not contain any recommendations.

Evaluation and Inspections Division

The most recent peer review of the Evaluation and Inspections Division was performed by the U.S. Postal Service OIG in September 2021. There are no outstanding recommendations.

Investigations Division

The most recent peer review of the Investigations Division was conducted by the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration in March 2021. There are no outstanding recommendations.

Peer Reviews Conducted by the OIG

Audit Division

The Audit Division did not conduct any peer reviews during this reporting period.

Evaluation and Inspections Division

The Evaluation and Inspections Division did not conduct any peer reviews during this reporting period.

Investigations Division

The Investigations Division did not conduct any peer reviews during this reporting period.

4 Reporting Requirements

The IG Act specifies reporting requirements for semiannual reports. The requirements are listed below and indexed to the applicable pages:

IG Act References	Reporting Requirements	Page
5 U.S.C. § 404(a)(2)	Review of Legislation and Regulations	42
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(1)	Description of Significant Problems, Abuses, and Deficiencies and Recommendations for Corrective Actions	10-39
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(2)	Identification of Recommendations for Which Corrective Actions Have Not Been Completed	44-45
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(3)	Significant Investigations Closed	10-39
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(4)	Total Number of Convictions Resulting From Investigations	3, 48
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(5)	Listing of Audit, Inspection, and Evaluation Reports	10-39
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(6)	Information Regarding Management Decisions Made During the Reporting Period with Respect to Audits, Inspections, or Evaluations Issued During a Previous Reporting Period	Nothing to Report
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(7)	Information Described in Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 Section 804(b)	Nothing to Report
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(8)	Peer Reviews Conducted by Another OIG	54
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(9)	Outstanding Recommendations from Peer Reviews of the OIG	Nothing to Report
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(10)	Outstanding Recommendations from Peer Reviews Conducted by the OIG	Nothing to Report
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(11)	Statistical Table Pertaining to OIG Investigations	47-48
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(12)	Description of Metrics for OIG Investigative Table	47-48
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(13)	Reports Involving Substantiated Allegations Against Senior Government Employees or Senior Officials	Investigative Narratives Marked with an Asterisk (*) on pages 15–16, 21, 35, 37–38
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(14)	Instance of Whistleblower Retaliation	Nothing to Report
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(15)	Attempts to Interfere with OIG Independence and Summary of Reports of Refusal to Provide Information or Assistance	Nothing to Report
5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(16)	Inspections, Evaluations, Audits, and Investigations of Senior Government Employees Undisclosed to the Public	46 ¹⁶

¹⁶ This information is provided pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(16)(B). The OIG does not have any information to report pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 405(b)(16)(A) for this reporting period.

REPORT WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE, OR MISCONDUCT

To report allegations of waste, fraud, abuse, or misconduct regarding DOJ programs, employees, contractors, or grants, please go to the <u>OIG Hotline</u> or call the OIG's Hotline at (800) 869-4499.

The OIG website has complaint forms that allow you to report the following to the OIG:

- general allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse in DOJ programs or by DOJ employees;
- contract fraud, including mandatory disclosures required by contractors when they have credible evidence of violations of the civil False Claims Act or certain violations of criminal law;
- grant fraud, including fraud, waste, or abuse related to DOJ's award of Recovery Act funds; and
- violations of civil rights or civil liberties by DOJ employees.

To give information by mail or fax, please send to:

U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General Investigations Division ATTN: OIG Hotline 950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C., 20530 Fax: (202) 616-9881

For further information on how to report a complaint to the OIG, please call (800) 869-4499.