

# Welcome to the EEC!

This newsletter is your trusted source for staying up to date on the latest developments and discussions happening within the Executive Ethics Commission. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed and ensure we are all participants in moving ethics forward in the State of Illinois. If we all work together, we can develop a governmental culture of transparency, accountability, and trust.

**Newsletter Archive** 

# **Publications & Decisions**

Recently, the Executive Ethics Commission issued decisions regarding alleged violations of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act. The State Officials and Employees Ethics Act empowers the EEC to conduct

administrative hearings and rule on matters brought before the EEC by the Office of the Attorney General on behalf of an Executive Inspector General. The EEC's authority to hear and rule upon matters is limited to alleged violations of the Ethics Act. Copies of the EEC's recent decisions are also available here: Ethics Act Decisions.

The EEC also released new summary reports of investigations by the Offices of the Executive Inspectors General (EIG). According to the Ethics Act, an EIG is required to issue a summary report when, after the investigation, the EIG determines that reasonable cause exists to believe a violation has occurred. The Ethics Act requires that some summary reports be made available to the public and authorizes the EEC to release others. Before making the reports available, however, the EEC redacts information that may reveal the identity of witnesses, complainants, informants, or other investigation-related information. In releasing the reports, the EEC neither makes nor adopts any determination of fact or conclusions of law for or against any individual or entity referenced in the reports. The newly released reports are here: EIG Summary Reports.

# **Did You Know?**

#### Year-End Training Reports

The Executive Ethics Commission and its partners at the Offices of the Executive Inspectors General (OEIGs) play key roles in educating State employees about their duties under the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act. Every year thousands of State employees complete two mandatory trainings: one for Ethics and one for Harassment & Discrimination Prevention. The EEC and OEIGs review and approve these trainings before State employees take them to ensure the training materials comply with law and that employees have the tools they need to carry out State business in an ethical manner. But, did you know that the EEC's role in training does not stop there?

The Ethics Act and the EEC's rules require each ultimate jurisdictional authority to submit annual reports with training data for the previous year to the EEC on or before February 1. Ultimate jurisdictional authorities include the State's Constitutional Officers, public institutions of higher learning, regional development authorities, and the regional transit boards. The year-end reports include training materials, the number of individuals who completed trainings, and the identity of anyone who failed to complete a training during the prior year.

The EEC reviews each year-end report and often reaches out to the ultimate jurisdictional authorities to discuss discrepancies and ensure compliance. Although compiling and reviewing these reports can be time-consuming, the reports are valuable tools for oversight and governmental transparency. To that end, the Ethics Act requires the EEC to publish Harassment and& Discrimination Training annual reports on its website. To view past training reports, please visit <u>here</u>.

# **Upcoming Events**



#### Lunch & Learn Series

# The EEC & Ethics in Illinois

#### January 30, 2025

Don't forget to sign up for our first Lunch & Learn of 2025! You won't want to miss all of this great information.

**Register Here** 



#### State of Illinois

### Half-Day Ethics Officer Conference

#### March 6, 2025

Will you be joining us in Chicago for the Half Day Ethics Officer Conference? It will be a great opportunity to network with fellow ethics officers and learn some valuable information.



### Government Bar Association

### Prohibited Political Activity

#### April 9, 2025

This will be a great opportunity for the EEC to discuss prohibited political activity and how it applies to governmental entities.

	LUNCH & LEARN	State of Illinois EXECUTIVE ETHICS COMMISSION
	HOSTED BY THE EXECUTIVE ETHICS COMMISSION	
	TOPIC: REVOLVING DOOR	
1	မိုး (၂) Friday, (၂) April 25, 2025	
	12:00 P.M 1:00 P.M.	Virtual Via Webex
	APPROVAL IS PENDING TO RECEI	VE 1-HOUR OF CLE CREDIT.

# Lunch & Learn Series

### **Revolving Door**

#### April 25, 2025

Sign up early for our next Lunch and Learn! During this session, we will be discussing important information related to the Revolving Door statute.

#### **Register Here**



#### Jackson and Williamson County Bar Associations & SIU Law School Joint CLE Conference

#### April 25, 2025

The EEC's Executive Director will be a guest speaker at this Joint CLE event, where he will discuss the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act and its application to State and local government.

# Training

We want to ensure our training programs meet your needs! If you have any requests for specific training topics or areas where you'd like additional support, please let us know, by contacting <u>Kate Zinnecker</u>, Training Development and Outreach Coordinator for the Executive Ethics Commission.

# **Stay Connected With Us!**

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#### State of Illinois Executive Ethics Commission

401 S Spring Street 516 William Stratton Building Springfield, Illinois 62704

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