



# The OIG Quarterly

Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Office of Inspector General (OIG)

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3, FEBRUARY 2024

## MESSAGE FROM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Happy new year and welcome back to the third issue of *The OIG Quarterly*! We've said it before, and we'll say it again: the OIG relies on the eyes and ears of all AOC employees to help us combat fraud, waste and abuse within AOC programs and operations. Last issue, we focused on the five tenants of fraud; this issue, we're diving into waste. What exactly is waste when it comes to agency programs and operations?



**Waste** is the extravagant careless or needless expenditure of AOC funds or the consumption of AOC property that results from deficient practices, systems, controls or decisions.

One of the most important reminders regarding waste is that intent is *not* a defining factor. Simply put, waste is waste no matter one's intention.

Some examples of waste include programs with duplicative costs, process inefficiencies, or time theft. For more information on waste, check out our [FAQ](#).

If you think you've come across or know of instances of waste in AOC programs and operations, speak up! The confidential AOC OIG Hotline is available 24/7.

— Christopher Failla, CIG, CFE,  
AOC Inspector General

## NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Say hello to **Thomas Gallagher**, who joined the OIG team three months ago! Thomas is part of the Investigations Division as a Special Agent. He conducts criminal, civil and administrative investigations involving fraud, theft and employee misconduct. Prior to joining the AOC OIG, Thomas spent 10 years as a state detective in New York and New Jersey. In his free time, Thomas enjoys spending time with his family and friends, cigars, and golfing. Funny enough, he hit a hole-in-one in that didn't go in the hole. During the pandemic, courses plugged the holes with pool noodles, but according to the PGA, if the ball hit the pool noodle, it was considered a hole-in-one!



## QUARTERLY OIG SNAPSHOT

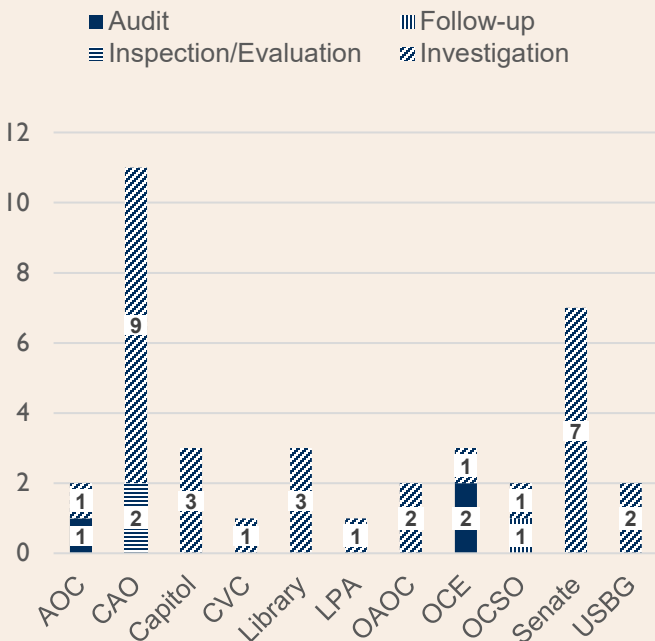
### Check out our most recent reports:

- [Statement of Management Opportunities and Performance Challenges: Fiscal Year 2023](#)
- [AOC OIG Information Guide](#)
- [Semiannual Report to Congress April 1-September 30, 2023](#)
- [Misuse of Government-Issued iPhone \(2024-0001-INVI-P\)](#)
- [Unreported Outside Employment and Employment of Subordinate Architect of the Capitol \(AOC\) Employees \(2023-0009-INVI-P\)](#)



Scan the QR code to access these reports and more!

### Active OIG Engagements by Office/Jurisdiction



## IMPORTANCE OF OIG HOTLINES

During the first quarter of 2024, the [Texas Health and Human Services OIG](#) received 9,111 contacts of fraud, waste or abuse allegations to their OIG Fraud Hotline. These contacts resulted in 1,477 referrals for further investigation, proving that confidential OIG Hotlines are a crucial asset to agencies and a reliant path for reporting fraud, waste and abuse.



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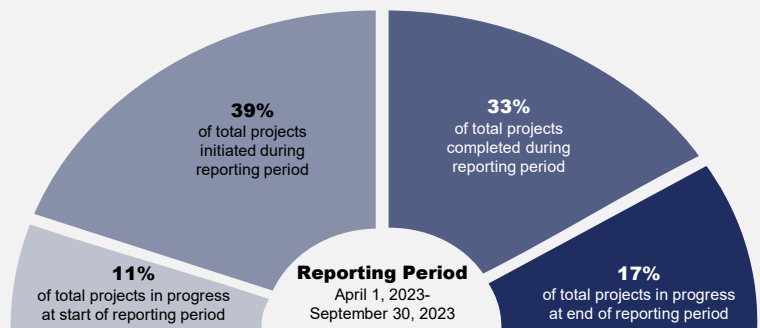


We would like to extend a warm welcome to **Anna Bieganowska**, who joined the OIG team three months ago. Anna is part of the Investigations Division as an Investigative Analyst. Her role includes conducting analyses of documents as well as phone

and financial records, identifying potential criminal violations to investigate, and supporting our special agents with casework. Anna was born in Poland and can speak Polish somewhat fluently — cześć! Outside of work, Anna enjoys reading, cross-stitching and spending time with her family and two puppies. Welcome to the agency, Anna!

## SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

In December 2023, the OIG transmitted the year's second Semiannual Report to Congress (SAR). Below is a snapshot of the OIG's work during the SAR reporting period. Check out the full report for more information on these projects.



**21** Projects in Progress at Start of Reporting Period

**74** Projects Initiated During Reporting Period

**63** Projects Completed During Reporting Period

**21** Projects in Progress at End of Reporting Period



## OIG AWARDS!

Members of our OIG have been bestowed Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) awards for their incredible work this past year!

Congratulations are in order for **Meghan Blasi**, **Natasha Garcia**, **Kristy Miller**, **Sally Smith**, and **Abbey Tereba** in recognition for their investigative work into the misuse of taxpayer funds and ethical violations by the former Architect of the Capitol. Thank you all for ensuring the accountability of, integrity of, and enhancing the public's confidence in our government's senior leaders.

We'd also like to point the spotlight on **Audrey Cree** who has been bestowed an OIG Inspections and Evaluations Division—Evaluations Award for Excellence for her work evaluating the AOC's security badging program. Audrey's dedication to excellence has resulted in the creation of standardized policies and procedures and interagency collaboration to enhance the safety and security of the Capitol campus, its workforce and its visitors. Congratulations, Audrey, and thank you for your dedication to the OIG mission and the agency.

## WHAT IS THE OIG?

Most federal agencies have an independent OIG charged with conducting independent audits, investigations, and inspections and evaluations as well as preventing and detecting fraud, waste and abuse. Through audits and evaluations that recommend improvements in operations and investigation of those who abuse the public trust or defraud government programs, the AOC OIG works to ensure the integrity of AOC programs and operations.



## CONTACT US

Check out AOC OIG reports on [www.oversight.gov](http://www.oversight.gov)

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