

# THE OIG QUARTERLY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 7, MARCH 2025



## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL

Welcome back to issue 7 of *The OIG Quarterly*!

The holiday hustle and bustle has ended, the weather is cool, we have had multiple snow events, and now we are in tax season. Scammers don't take breaks and neither should you. In our last issue, we mentioned our new website dedicated to identity fraud and we note it again since tax season is primetime for scammers to steal your identity to claim your tax refund or solicit you directly for funds via text, email or postal mail schemes. Be on the lookout for suspicious activity, and if the offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Also, neither the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) nor the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) will ever ask you for your personal information via text or email, and official email correspondence will always be via a .gov address.

Finally, I would like to thank the AOC team for their continued support, patience, and assistance throughout these last few months. The AOC OIG looks forward to continuing to build strong relationships through open, honest, and transparent communication with all our stakeholders. We have a slogan in the office: let our work speak for itself, and we intend to do just that. In this issue, we cover theft, scammers and our quarterly OIG recent reports.

As a reminder, if you witness fraud, waste or abuse in AOC programs or operations, don't accept it, do something about it.

Contact the AOC OIG hotline at [aocoig.oversight.gov](https://aocoig.oversight.gov)

Thank you.

Dr. Michael J Rich, CIG, PMP, CFE, SHRM-SCP, Deputy Inspector General Performing the Duties of the Inspector General



<https://aocoig.oversight.gov/identity-theft-resources>

VISIT FOR MORE INFORMATION!



## OIG ADVISORY: THEFT

In this issue, we wanted to dive into what is considered theft. Theft is the second most common criminal violation that the AOC OIG investigates.

Theft involves taking property or funds, be it government or private, without written permission. This can include:

- Taking or borrowing AOC property such as equipment, tools, vehicles, and office supplies, regardless of whether it's for personal use or a side business
- Use of AOC technology beyond de minimis use
- Reporting something as lost when it isn't so that the AOC provides a replacement
- Taking trash or discarded materials.

Don't assume you can take something. To be safe, get approval in writing (e.g., email, text message, letter) from the appropriate authority before removing items from the Capitol campus.

Theft also includes stealing AOC Funds, such as failing to repay money received from the AOC's Student Loan Repayment Program if you do not work at the AOC for the agreed number of years.

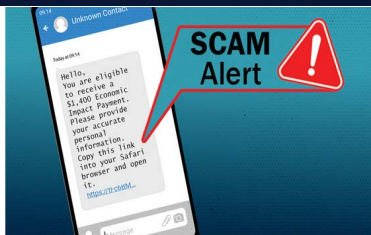
Note that intentionally destroying AOC property is another federal crime that the OIG investigates, even if you return the property.

If allegations of theft are substantiated, the AOC can require the employee to return the item or reimburse the cost of the stolen item (see [2024-0004-INVI-P](#)), in addition to other disciplinary actions or criminal charges.



## Beware of Scammers

With tax season now under way, you could be a target for scammers. The AOC OIG would like you to know that scammers are impersonating the IRS and texting taxpayers asking for sensitive information under the guise of receiving an Economic Impact Payment. This is a scam to steal your personal data. In reality, if you are eligible for such payments, the IRS notes that these payments are automatic, and you do not need to take any action.



Please be aware that neither the AOC OIG nor the IRS will ever text you to request your personal financial information. Also be aware that official government communications will only come from a .gov web address and never a .com web address.

Please reach out to the AOC OIG if you have any questions or hotline referrals about fraud, waste or abuse in AOC programs or operations. Feel free to check out our website if you feel you have been the victim of identity theft.



## WELCOMING A NEW EMPLOYEE

Please join us in welcoming Management & Program Analyst, Emily M. Thomas to the OIG. Emily brings professional and academic experience in legislative policy research from working as an intern in California and Washington DC. Her work included data visualization, qualitative and quantitative analysis, and her expertise includes research and data analysis for organizations such as the Government Accountability Office.

Emily earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Riverside, and a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy. Emily enjoys exploring DC, travel, dungeons and dragons, video games, classical music, and sci-fi. Welcome to the OIG, Emily!

## QUARTERLY OIG SNAPSHOT

### Check out our most recent reports:

Allegation of Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) Fraud (2025-0001-INVI-P)

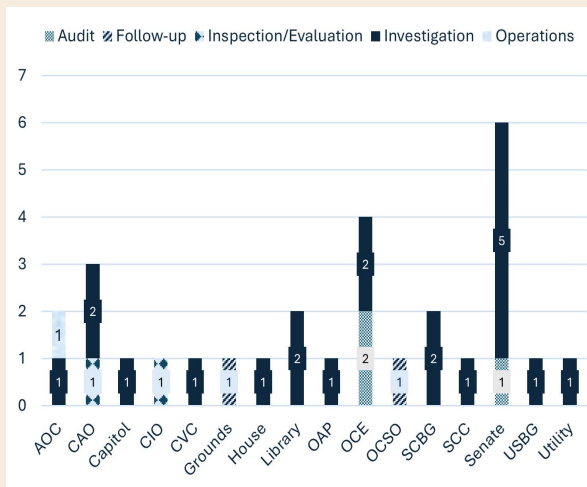
Inappropriate Relationship, Retaliation and Truthfulness (2025-0003-INVI-P)

Allegation of Malingering (2025-0005-INVI-P)



Scan the QR code to access these reports and more!

### Active OIG Engagements by Jurisdiction



### HAVE A REQUEST?

If there's a topic you're interested in learning more about or you think would benefit others, contact [Charlotte.McCray@aoc.gov](mailto:Charlotte.McCray@aoc.gov).

## REPORT FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE



**Confidential Toll-Free Hotline:** 877.489.8583



**OIG Website & Hotline Report:** [aocoig.oversight.gov](https://aocoig.oversight.gov)



**X:** [@aocoig](https://twitter.com/aocoig)



**LinkedIn:** [@aocoig](https://www.linkedin.com/company/aocoig)



**Email:** [hotline@aoc-oig.org](mailto:hotline@aoc-oig.org)



**Visit:** Fairchild Building, Ste. 518, 499 South Capitol St. SW, Washington, DC 20515

## 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.