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INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

Alleged Violation of Post-Employment Ethics Rules

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) received an allegation that a former U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Attorney violated post-employment ethics rules by working on a matter when in private practice that the attorney previously handled as a DOL Attorney.

The OIG determined that prior to his separation, the senior DOL employee had been involved in a particular piece of litigation on behalf of DOL. Immediately upon separation, the DOL employee began working as an attorney in private practice and was retained by a client seeking to intervene in the same litigation in which DOL was involved in direct violation of the post-employment ethics rules.

On May 4, 2022, the OIG referred the case to the U.S. Department of Justice's Public Integrity Division which subsequently declined prosecution. The former employee was notified of the post-employment restrictions. The former DOL employee immediately ceased involvement with the litigation he had worked on while employed by DOL.

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