



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Department of Labor

www.oig.dol.gov

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

OSHA Compliance Officer Improperly Released Confidential Materials and Violated Ethics Rules

In January 2014, the OIG received a referral from the DOL Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) that an OSHA Compliance Officer (CO) had allegedly been communicating with a filmmaker while the CO had an open investigation of interest to the filmmaker. It was further alleged that the CO attended the film's premiere and accepted free lodging from the filmmaker. Subsequently, the OIG received a complaint alleging that the CO had released official OSHA investigative documents and confidential litigation documents related to the OSHA investigation.

The OIG conducted an investigation and concluded that the CO, improperly and without authorization, provided OSHA investigative documents and litigation materials to third parties. The OIG also concluded that the CO violated the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Federal Employees related to the duty to act impartially, and the duty to avoid any actions creating the appearance that federal ethical standards have been violated.

The OIG's completed investigative report was forwarded to OSHA in January 2015 for appropriate action, which remains pending.

Posted to www.oig.dol.gov on July 13, 2016