

Summary: Investigation of Possible Ethics Violations by BIA Employees

Report Date: October 7, 2016

OIG recently concluded an investigation into allegations that two married Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) employees, with the Office of Trust Services, solicited positions with a tribe while simultaneously assisting the tribe in obtaining Federal funds for its forestry program.

We found that the couple participated personally and substantially in the distribution of \$200,000 to the tribe while the husband sought employment with the tribe as a tribal forest manager and while the wife considered an offer for a BIA superintendent position at the tribe. The husband attempted to conceal his assistance to the tribe before and while his wife considered the employment offer and the wife failed to report knowledge of the husband's actions. Ultimately, neither the husband nor wife took positions with the tribe.

We found that the husband's actions violated 5 C.F.R. § 2635.604(a), Disqualification While Seeking Employment. We also found that actions taken by the couple related to the tribe while the husband was seeking employment with the tribe created the appearance of a conflict of interest.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia declined prosecution.

This is a summary of an investigative report that we issued to BIA for action.

