

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
INVESTIGATIONS



INVESTIGATIVE CASE SUMMARIES



June 2019

In June 2019, [the vice president of sales for an American furniture manufacturer admitted to obtaining competitors' confidential bid proposals](#) to win a Department contract to furnish a new U.S. embassy that was under construction. OIG special agents determined that the vice president knowingly obtained from Department employees bid prices and design plans of at least three competitors. The information enabled his company to win the contract to provide furniture. He also admitted to improperly paying a portion of a Department employee's expenses when they attended dinners, sporting events, and concerts. Sentencing is pending.

In June 2019, the Department debarred a total of seven vendors and individuals for systematically defrauding the U.S. Government. OIG special agents found that several companies and individuals associated with \$241,901 worth of Department contracts provided false information and improperly certified information their System for Award Management and FedBid registrations.

In June 2019, [a former Senior Executive Service official serving as Chief Strategy Officer at the U.S. Agency for Global Media pleaded guilty to stealing more than \\$40,000 in government funds](#) in 2018. OIG special agents determined the employee fraudulently obtained thousands of dollars by submitting falsified hotel invoices and inflated taxi and Uber receipts and by billing the government for personal travel and travel that had already been paid by third parties. Additionally, he admitted to creating a falsified letter that claimed he needed to fly business class because of medical reasons, resulting in costly business class upgrades at government expense. Sentencing is scheduled for October 2019.

In June 2019, the Department debarred two former locally engaged staff (LES) employees as well as two companies and their owners. OIG and Bureau of Diplomatic Security special agents determined that, from 2013 through 2016, the LES employees used their official U.S. embassy positions as procurement agents for personal gain when they accepted gratuities and cash payments of thousands of dollars in exchange for procuring particular products. The LES employees were terminated from their positions in 2016.

