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2019-0014-INVI-P –Misuse of Architect of the Capitol Resources to Support Outside Employment: (Substantiated)

In October 2018, the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a confidential complaint that an AOC employee used AOC computer and telephone systems to sell real estate during office hours. Record searches identified the AOC employee as a licensed real estate agent. Although most online resources provided a personal phone number for the AOC employee, the Trulia.com website lists the AOC employee as a listing agent using a telephone number assigned to the employee by the AOC. The employee was interviewed and confirmed that they were a licensed realtor with a signed and approved "Notice of Outside Employment or Self Employment Form" filed with the AOC. The employee denied using AOC resources for personal gain and provided copies of their user profile for the Multiple Listing Service and commercial real estate web-application, Homesnap.com. Both databases depicted the employee's private address and phone number for contact. The employee was unaware that their AOC cellular phone number was listed on the Trulia.com website and was unable to explain why, suggesting it was entered as an oversight when they joined approximately 10 years ago. The employee agreed to take steps to have the cellular number removed from the third-party real estate search engine.

Final Management Action: The OIG substantiated that the employee used their AOC issued telephone number on a third party real estate site, but could not substantiate that they used other AOC resources for personal gain. The employee was given a verbal counseling in September 2019, and a record of the counseling was placed in the supervisor's personnel file for the employee.