



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY | 24-077

### **Findings of Misconduct by a then Acting Assistant Chief Immigration Judge for Creating an Appearance of Impropriety in Connection with a Romantic Relationship with a Subordinate and for Engaging in Dishonest Conduct while Previously Serving as an Immigration Judge**

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) initiated an investigation after receiving a complaint alleging that a then acting Assistant Chief Immigration Judge (ACIJ) for DOJ's Executive Office for Immigration Review's (EOIR) Office of the Chief Immigration Judge (OCIJ) had an inappropriate relationship with a subordinate. Additionally, during the investigation, the OIG found evidence that the acting ACIJ, while previously serving as an Immigration Judge, created and sent a fictitious email from the judge's DOJ email account.

The OIG investigation substantiated the allegation that the then acting ACIJ was in a romantic relationship with a subordinate. The OIG investigation found that the then acting ACIJ created the appearance of use of the acting ACIJ's public office for the private gain of the subordinate, in violation of OCIJ policy. The OIG investigation further found that the acting ACIJ, while previously serving as an Immigration Judge, engaged in dishonest conduct by using their DOJ email account to create and send a fictitious email, purportedly from the then EOIR Director, to a non-DOJ employee, in violation of federal regulations.

The acting ACIJ resigned while the OIG's investigation was ongoing.

Criminal prosecution of the acting ACIJ was declined.

The OIG has completed its investigation and provided its report to EOIR and DOJ's Professional Misconduct Review Unit for their information and appropriate action.



Unless otherwise noted, the OIG applies the preponderance of the evidence standard in determining whether DOJ personnel have committed misconduct.