

SEC OIG INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY



Former SEC Attorney recorded a whistleblower interview without the knowledge of the participants and used an unapproved artificial intelligence service to transcribe the recording.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigated whether a former SEC attorney in the Salt Lake Regional Office audio-recorded an interview he conducted with an SEC whistleblower without the knowledge or consent of the whistleblower, his attorney, or another SEC attorney participating in the interview, and then used an unapproved third-party artificial intelligence (AI) service to transcribe the interview recording.

The OIG found that the SEC attorney surreptitiously recorded the interview of an SEC whistleblower and never obtained consent nor informed the participating parties that they were being recorded. The SEC attorney then used an unauthorized AI recording and transcription application to record and produce a transcript of the interview.

The OIG also found that the employee used the same unauthorized application to produce additional recordings, some of which were believed to be associated with his SEC work. The OIG found that the employee mishandled SEC nonpublic information (NPI) when he transmitted NPI to the unauthorized AI application using his personal email account.

The employee resigned from federal service prior to OIG's investigation and declined to be interviewed or provide a statement on this matter.

The OIG referred the matter to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Utah, which declined prosecution.

The OIG referred the matter to the SEC for information only.

