

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



INVESTIGATIVE CASE SUMMARIES



April 2019

In April 2019, a Department contracting officer (CO) was arrested and [charged with conspiracy, bribery, honest services fraud, and making false statements](#). OIG and FBI special agents determined that from November 2012 to early 2017, the CO and the owner of a Turkish construction firm allegedly engaged in a bribery and procurement fraud scheme in which the CO received at least \$239,300 in cash payments from the business owner. In return, the CO supervised multimillion-dollar construction contracts awarded to the owner's business partners. The CO allegedly concealed the unlawful relationship by making false statements on financial disclosure forms and during background reinvestigations. The Bureau of Diplomatic Security has suspended the employee's security clearance.

In April 2019, a Department grant recipient and former professor at several major U.S. academic institutions was debarred for failure to perform in accordance with multiple grant provisions. OIG auditors and special agents determined that, while managing multiple awards, the grant recipient sub-contracted work to both his spouse and stepson. In addition, while managing a separate award supporting the exchange of American, Tanzanian, and Kenyan trainers working on sports programs for young adults with disabilities, approximately \$38,288 worth of receipts submitted by the recipient were unsupported by proper documentation. The unallowable costs were returned in full to the Department.

In April 2019, the U.S. District Court ordered a forfeiture money judgement in the amount of \$312,734, to recover the illegal proceeds of wire fraud, to which a former employee had pleaded guilty. In January 2019, the former Department employee was [sentenced to 15 months in prison followed by a three-year term of supervised release and ordered to pay \\$244,884 in restitution](#) for fraudulently discharging over \$250,000 in student loan debt. The former employee applied through the Department of Education for a Total and Permanent Disability discharge of student loan debt, affirming that he was disabled and unable to work. OIG special agents determined, however, that he earned over \$331,000 from two full-time jobs from May 2013 to October 2016.