

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



INVESTIGATIVE CASE SUMMARIES



November 2019

In November 2019, a former Department contracting officer was sentenced to 500 hours of community service and ordered to pay a \$2,500 fine, while another Department employee was sentenced to 250 hours of community service and ordered to pay a \$2,500 fine. These sentences were for their roles in a Procurement Integrity Act violation. The former Department employee had [pleaded guilty in August to disclosing confidential bid proposal information](#) to help a furniture company executive win a lucrative contract. The executive was sentenced to 3 months in prison and ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine. In addition, all three individuals were debarred from doing business with the U.S. Government for 3 years.

In November 2019, a former Senior Executive Service official serving as Chief Strategy Officer at the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) was sentenced to 3 months in prison and 3 years of supervised release and ordered to pay \$34,388 in restitution. He was also sentenced to 30 hours of community service, during which he will speak or write to senior level government employees to warn them about committing fraud against the government while in a position of trust. In June 2019, [he pleaded guilty to stealing more than \\$40,000 in government funds](#). After being alerted by USAGM leadership, OIG special agents investigated and confirmed 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 flight upgrades at government expense.

In November 2019, a former employee of a Department grantee organization was debarred from doing business with the U.S. Government for 3 years. In May 2019, [the former employee had been ordered to pay \\$23,000 in restitution and was sentenced to probation and 50 hours of community service](#) after entering a pre-trial diversion program through the State of New Jersey's Office of the Attorney General. OIG special agents determined that the employee altered scholarship grantee payment information in a grant program database from October 2017 to April 2018. She then had payment checks mailed to herself, forged the grantees' names, and endorsed the checks to herself.