

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



INVESTIGATIVE CASE SUMMARIES



September 2018

In September 2018, a Department contractor, who worked for the U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica, was sentenced to 30 months in prison and ordered to pay \$293,832 in restitution. The individual had pleaded guilty in June to the theft of government funds. OIG special agents determined that he had used his position as president of a Costa Rican company to steal more than \$2 million in taxpayer funds that were intended for use in the processing of visa application fees for the embassy in Costa Rica.

In September 2018, a Department contractor was sentenced to 6 months in prison. In June, he had pleaded guilty to six counts of wire fraud related to misconduct in government contracting. The defendant was previously placed in proposed debarment status by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for providing counterfeit goods and for a history of failure to perform or unsatisfactory performance on contracts. After learning of his proposed debarment, he created a new company in order to continue obtaining government contracts, including contracts awarded by the Department. He used an alias to falsely certify to the government that he was not currently proposed for debarment. His company received 37 government contracts worth approximately \$245,000 as a result of this false certification. He later created another company and used another alias to falsely certify that he was not presently debarred. That company received seven government contracts worth approximately \$60,000 as a result of this second false certification.

In September 2018, a Department official was sentenced to 13 months in prison and ordered to pay \$35,112 in restitution. She had pleaded guilty in May to conspiring with others to steal portions of federal grant funds intended for a foreign exchange program maintained by the Department.