



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

## INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY | 23-002

### **Finding of Misconduct by a then Environment and Natural Resources Division Attorney for Failing to File an Accurate Confidential Financial Disclosure Report**

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) initiated this investigation upon the receipt of information from the Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) Ethics Office, that an ENRD attorney detailed to another DOJ division had self-reported a potential conflict of interest with an investigation to which the ENRD attorney was assigned due to the financial interests of the attorney's spouse. During the course of the OIG investigation, the OIG found that the ENRD attorney failed to include certain assets imputed to the attorney on the attorney's annual confidential financial disclosure report.

Consistent with the information the ENRD attorney self-reported, the OIG investigation found that the ENRD attorney had a financial conflict of interest with an investigation to which the attorney was assigned, arising from the financial interests of the attorney's spouse. The OIG found that the attorney recused from that investigation once the attorney became aware of the attorney's spouse's financial interests, and thus did not violate federal ethics regulations pertaining to disqualifying financial interests. The OIG investigation found that the ENRD attorney had failed to investigate and disclose the attorney's spouse's financial interests on the attorney's confidential financial disclosure report, as required by federal law. The ENRD attorney resigned before this investigation concluded.

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



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