

# Georgia Office of the State Inspector General *Annual Report FY 24*

October 31, 2024





# Message from the Inspector General

The Georgia Office of the State Inspector General is pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report which highlights our mission and responsibilities, provides statistics for complaints and investigations, and showcases notable investigations handled from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

The Office was established on January 13, 2003, by Executive Order and was tasked with the prevention and detection of fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption within the Executive Branch of State Government. In 2019, OIG was further tasked by Executive Order to provide oversight of sexual harassment investigations. In 2021, an Executive Order established the Code of Ethics for Executive Branch officers and employees and empowered OIG to investigate ethical violations. In 2023, Senate Bill 59 was signed into law by Governor Brian Kemp, which created statutory law enforcement authority for The Office.

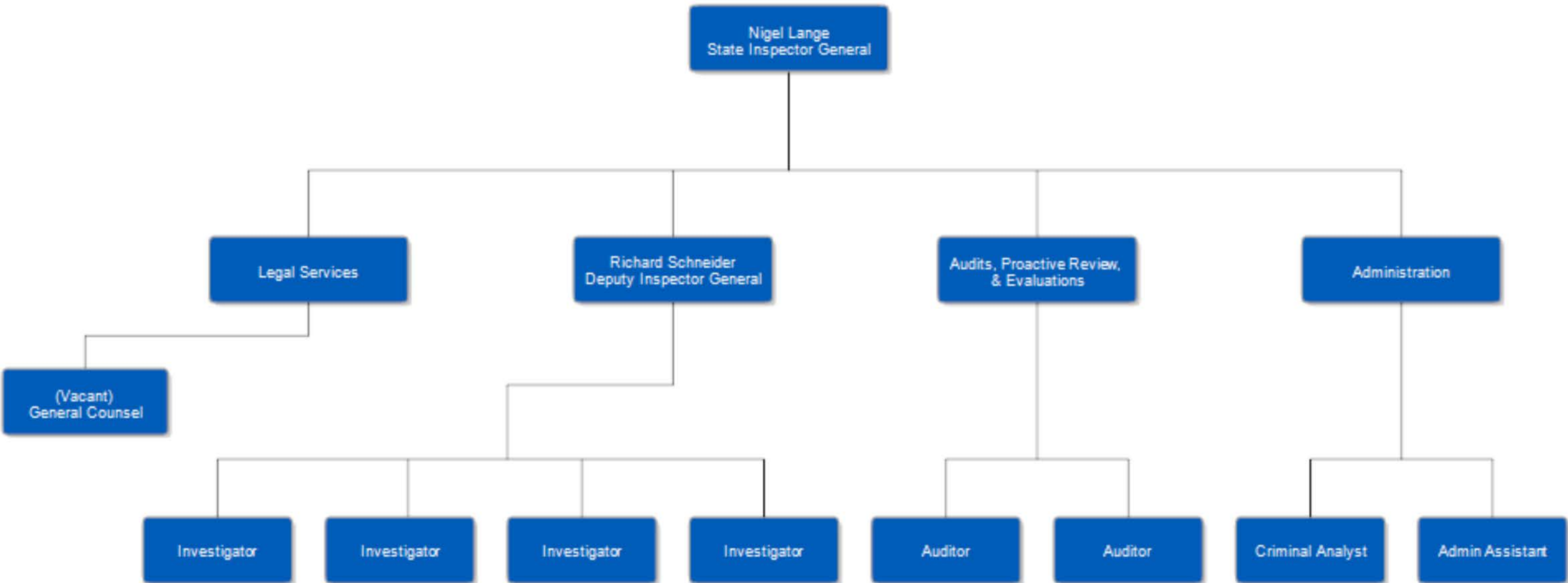


As a newly created law enforcement agency, The Office made efforts towards obtaining State Certification during the year, a process in which an external credentialing entity assesses and acknowledges that the implementation of policies and procedures are conceptually sound and operationally effective. Notwithstanding, the quality and quantity of our work did not diminish. OIG presented several significant cases for indictment, the most noteworthy of which resulted in a Fulton County Grand Jury indicting eight former State of Georgia employees on a combined eight counts for Violation of Georgia Employment Security Law (O.C.G.A. 34-8-256) and 79 counts of False Statements and Writings (O.C.G.A. 16-10-20) relating to the former employees’ applications and the claiming of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic despite being employed full-time with the State of Georgia.

We continue to take our mission very seriously and always seek to fulfill our mandate during subsequent years with improved efficiency and effectiveness. We believe that public confidence in Georgia State Government will see improvements as the result of our endeavors.

Respectfully,

Nigel Lange  
Inspector General





**OIG Mission:** OIG is charged with fostering and promoting accountability and integrity in state government. Key to public trust is the expectation that OIG will hold state officials accountable for efficient, cost-effective government operations, and prevent, detect, identify, expose, and eliminate fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption. OIG shall receive and investigate complaints from any source alleging fraud, waste, abuse, or corruption that has been committed or is being committed against an agency of the state.

## Fraud, Waste, Abuse, & Corruption

Complaints Received		FY 22: 327	Investigations Opened		FY 22: 36	Active Investigations at Year End		FY 22: 26
		FY 23: 587			FY 23: 21			FY 23: 30
		FY 24: 928			FY 24: 27			FY 24: 45

OIG reviews complaints and allegations to determine whether the matter falls under our jurisdiction and if there are sufficient facts to initiate an investigation. If so, we open an investigation. Many allegations we receive fall outside our jurisdiction, including concerns regarding personnel/management issues, county government matters, and private industry concerns. OIG refers these complaints to a more appropriate investigative entity when possible.

OIG regularly conducts training programs for state employees about the detection and prevention of fraud.				
Number of Employees Trained		FY22	FY23	FY24
		805	789	1,219

## Fiscal Value

	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24
Financial Impact of Investigations	\$9,011,342	\$8,904,031	\$6,952,753
OIG Annual Budget	\$1,390,752	\$1,547,478	\$1,626,154



# OIG Executive Branch Oversight

## Office of the State Inspector General

Number of Employees: 12

Annual Budget: \$1,626,154

Offices: 1

## Executive Agencies

Number of Employees: 57,240\*

Annual Budget: \$37,512,773,362

Number of Agencies: 71

OIG closed 25 cases in FY 24 and worked with approximately 12 different executive branch agencies to address the allegations, which included conflicts of interest, grant fraud, benefit fraud, fuel card theft, billing schemes, payroll schemes, check tampering, and violations of the Statewide Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy. OIG's investigations resulted in employee terminations and resignations, policy and procedure changes, reimbursements to the State, and criminal charges.



## Investigative Highlights

OIG led and participated in several significant investigations in FY 24. Some of these investigations were coordinated with other investigative agencies such as the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and various federal offices of inspectors general. Cases involving criminal activity were referred to the Department of Justice, the Georgia Attorney General's Office, and local District Attorney's Offices. Notable examples include:

\*Numbers Based on FY23 DOAS Workforce Report



### Eight Former State Employees Indicted for Pandemic Unemployment Fraud

Each of the eight former employees were alleged to have falsified different aspects of their applications, weekly certifications, or a combination of both. Notably, each of the former employees were employed full-time with the State of Georgia during the entire period in which they claimed to be unemployed and failed to fully disclose their earnings. As a result of their applications and certifications, the eight employees received a total of approximately \$170,931 in unemployment insurance benefits and federal supplements.

### Two Indicted in Baldwin County for Alleged Scheme to Defraud Oconee Center Community Service Board

The defendants were alleged to have engaged in a scheme to fraudulently take money from the Oconee Center Community Service Board (Oconee CSB) through the use of forged and stolen Oconee CSB checks.

### Former State Agency Division Director and Coconspirators Indicted on Bribery and Racketeering Charges for Fraudulent Contracts

Between 2017 and 2019, former Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Housing Assistance Division (HAD) Director Shawn Williams and former DCA employee Toyao Andrews, who is also cousin to Shawn Williams, initiated a criminal RICO conspiracy to defraud DCA by taking and receiving money from DCA using Williams' position. The two created and approved contracts for cleaning services for a DCA office which was duplicative of services provided by the existing landlord. Williams and Andrews conspired to contract DCA with "Polished Resources, LLC", a company owned and operated by Andrews and other members of their families. Ultimately, Andrews and Williams exploited Williams' procurement authority granted by DCA to unlawfully take \$64,170.



# Office of the Inspector General



FY 2024 was the fifth full fiscal year of the Sexual Harassment Prevention Program.

Complaints  
Reported to OIG  
**= 104**



OIG Conducted 3  
Impartial  
Investigations

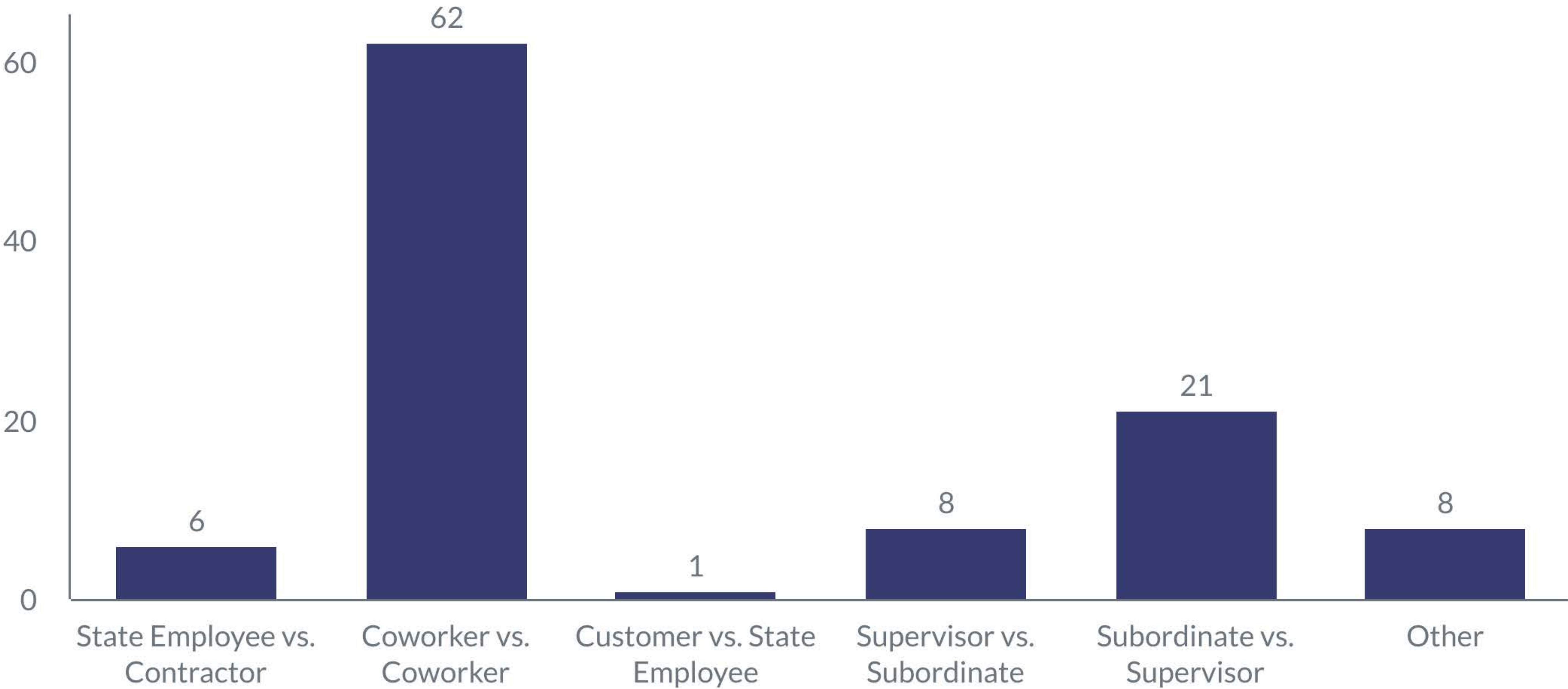
Sexual harassment complaints are reported to OIG via an online webform either by executive branch agency personnel who have received a report of sexual harassment or by an employee who has been subjected to sexual harassment but does not feel comfortable reporting to their agency.

Once an investigation has concluded, each agency reports their findings to OIG. Sustained findings indicate that the investigation revealed sufficient evidence to support the conclusion that the act(s) complained of occurred, were committed by the respondent, and constituted a violation(s) of the Statewide Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy.

**41%**

% of Total Closed Complaints with a  
Sustained Allegation  
**11% increase from FY23**

Relationship of Parties: Complainant vs. Respondent



# Report Fraud, Waste, Abuse, Or Corruption



---

**Website:**

[oig.georgia.gov](http://oig.georgia.gov)

**Email:**

[ig@oig.georgia.gov](mailto:ig@oig.georgia.gov)

---

**Mailing Address:**

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive  
SW, 1102 West Tower  
Atlanta, GA 30334