

Georgia Office of the State Inspector General

Annual Report FY 25

September 23, 2025





Message from the Inspector General

The Georgia Office of the State Inspector General is pleased to present the 2025 Annual Report which highlights our mission and responsibilities, provides statistics for complaints and investigations, and showcases notable investigations handled from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

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 P. Kemp, which created statutory law enforcement authority for the Office.



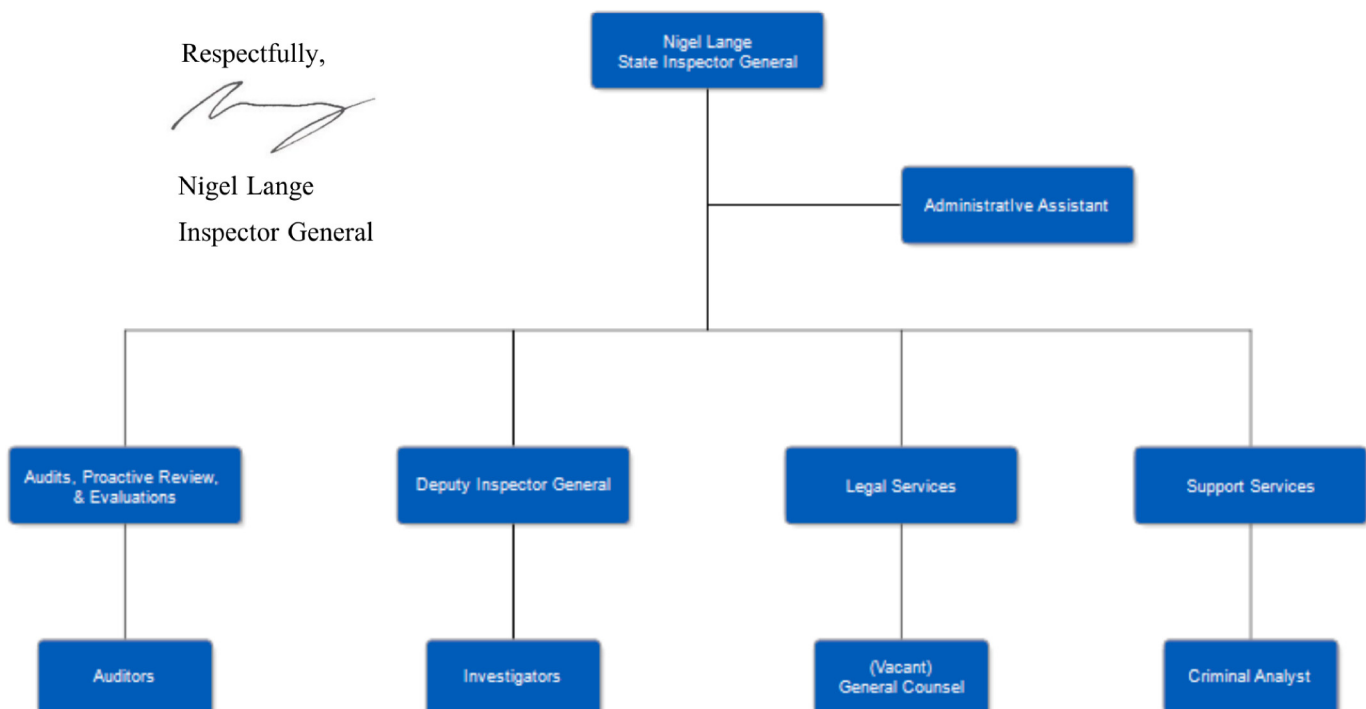
OIG presented several significant cases for indictment, the most noteworthy of which resulted in convictions in Gwinnett County, Georgia. Two defendants were sentenced for participating in a criminal enterprise with the purpose of obtaining and laundering the stolen proceeds of multiple cyber fraud schemes. Specifically, the defendants engaged in a Business Email Compromise (BEC) scheme targeting the Georgia Department of Transportation which resulted in an initial loss to the State of approximately \$1.3 million. With OIG's assistance, approximately \$440,000 was recovered by the Georgia Department of Transportation shortly after the scheme was discovered. One of the defendants was also convicted for his involvement in a romance scam targeting a private Georgia citizen, defrauding the victim of over \$300,000.

As a newly created law enforcement agency, the Office continued with its efforts towards obtaining State Certification, a process in which an external credentialing entity assesses and acknowledges that the implementation of policies and procedures are conceptually sound and operationally effective.

We continue to take our mission very seriously and seek to fulfill our mandate during subsequent years with improved efficiency and effectiveness. We hope 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.

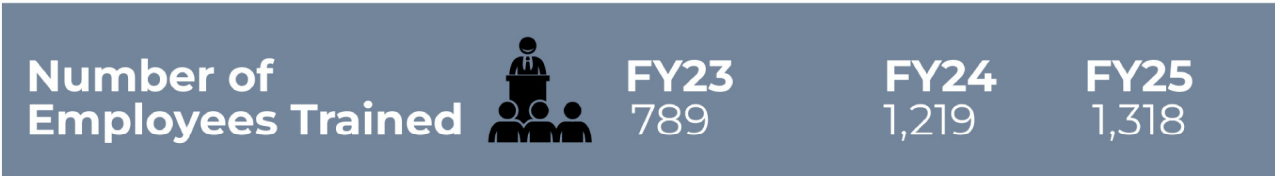
Fraud, Waste, Abuse, & Corruption

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, local government matters, and private industry concerns. OIG refers these complaints to a more appropriate investigative entity when possible.



Training and Outreach

OIG trains state employees on the detection and prevention of fraud. Training supports the integrity and efficiency of state government operations. It enhances state employees' understanding of the part we all play in safeguarding the States' resources and our responsibility to ethically serve the public.



Fiscal Value

	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25
Financial Impact of Investigations	\$8,904,031	\$6,952,753	\$17,390,300
OIG Annual Budget	\$1,547,478	\$1,626,154	\$1,829,469



OIG Executive Branch Oversight

Office of the State Inspector General

Number of Employees: 12

Annual Budget: \$1,829,469

Offices: 1

Executive Branch Agencies

Number of Employees: 63,859*

Annual Budget: \$36,087,802,875

Number of Agencies: 71

OIG closed 27 cases in FY 25 and worked with approximately 16 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 25. 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:

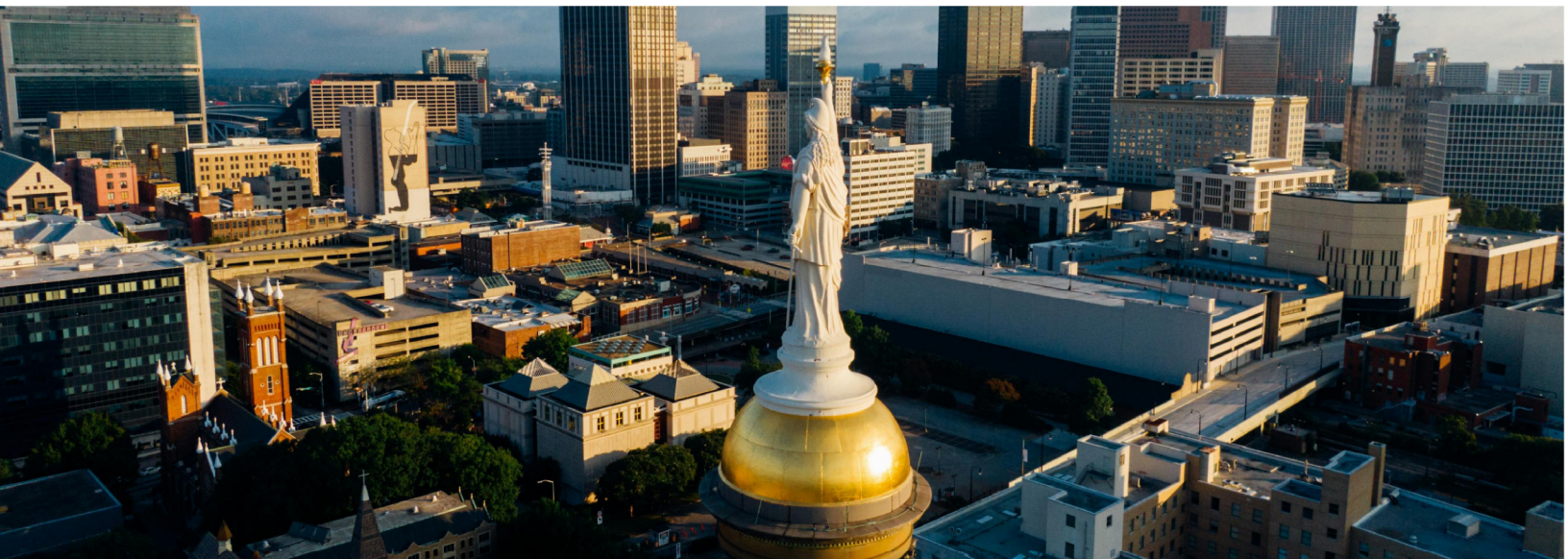
Two Convicted in Gwinnett County for Cyber Fraud Schemes Targeting GDOT and Private Citizen

Ugochinyere Anazodo, 46, of Gwinnett County, Georgia and Dominique Beaulieu, 45, of Windermere, Florida, were convicted and sentenced in Gwinnett County, Georgia for participating in a criminal enterprise with the purpose of obtaining and laundering the stolen proceeds of multiple cyber fraud schemes. Specifically, the defendants engaged in a Business Email Compromise (BEC) scheme targeting the Georgia Department of Transportation which resulted in an initial loss to the State of approximately \$1.3 million. With OIG's assistance, approximately \$440,000 was recovered by the Georgia Department of Transportation shortly after the scheme was discovered. Anazodo was also convicted for his involvement in a romance scam targeting a private Georgia citizen, defrauding the victim of over \$300,000.

Anazodo was found guilty of two counts of Racketeering, one count of Theft by Taking, and one count of Money Laundering on Aug. 29, 2024, following a nine-day jury trial in Gwinnett County. He was sentenced on Sep. 9, 2024, to 20 years, the first 10 to be served in prison, and was ordered to pay \$1,174,928.79 in restitution to the victims. Beaulieu pleaded guilty to two counts of Racketeering prior to trial. He was sentenced to five years, the first two to be served in prison, and was ordered to pay restitution.

OIG Arrests Former DECAL Employee for Allegedly Falsifying Inspection Reports

On July 9, 2024, the State of Georgia, Office of the Inspector General, with assistance from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, successfully arrested former Department of Early Care and Learning employee Maranda Powell. Powell was previously indicted by a Fulton County Grand Jury in 2021 on four counts of False Statements and Writings related to allegedly falsifying childcare inspection reports.





FY 2025 was the sixth full fiscal year of the Sexual Harassment Prevention Program.

Complaints
Reported to OIG
= 117



OIG Conducted 2
Impartial
Investigations

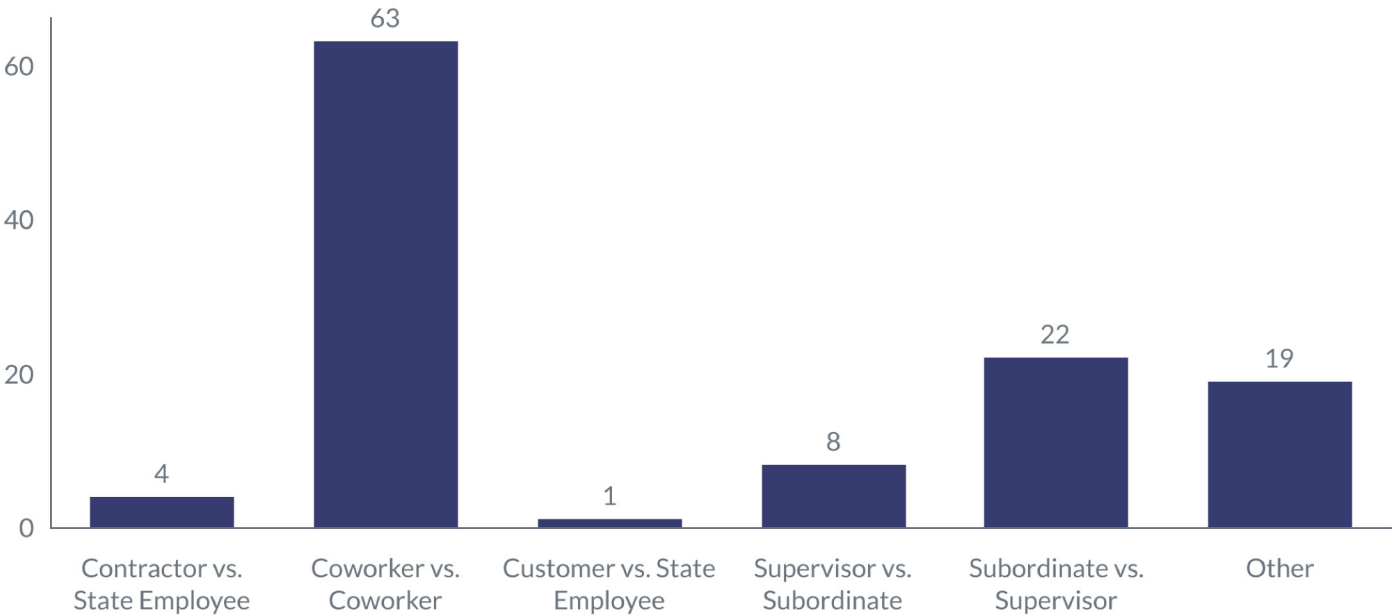
Sexual harassment complaints are reported to OIG via an online webform either by executive branch agency personnel who have received a report of sexual harassment or by an employee who has been subjected to sexual harassment but does not feel comfortable reporting to their agency.

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.

46%

% of Total Closed Complaints with a
Sustained Allegation
5% increase from FY24

Relationship of Parties: Complainant vs. Respondent



Report Fraud, Waste, Abuse, Or Corruption

Website:

oig.georgia.gov

Email:

ig@oig.georgia.gov

Mailing Address:

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

