

## DOL-OIG Investigations

- Labor Racketeering
- Union Corruption
- Organized Crime influence related to the American work force
- Unemployment Insurance Fraud
- Foreign Labor Certification Fraud
- Workforce Exploitation
- Contract and Grant Fraud
- Federal Employee Compensation Act Fraud
- Internal Affairs for the USDOL

To report a fraud,  
please call  
(800) 347-3756

[www.oig.dol.gov](http://www.oig.dol.gov)



## **The DOL-OIG is the only Law Enforcement agency within the U.S. Department of Labor.**

The DOL-OIG employs criminal investigators, who are sworn federal law enforcement officers, who are responsible for conducting a dual mission:

(1) To conduct criminal, civil, and administrative investigations of fraud, waste, and abuse occurring within the programs and operations administered by the Department of Labor; and

(2) To conduct criminal investigations to combat the influence of transnational and national organized criminal enterprises, labor racketeering, and workforce exploitation in the American workplace.

Our top priorities involve Organized Crime, Unemployment Insurance fraud, Foreign Labor certification fraud (Work Visa fraud), fraud involving DOL grants or contracts, and crimes that impact public safety and the American worker.



U.S. Department of Labor  
Office of Inspector General  
Office of Investigations -  
Labor Racketeering and Fraud

## **United States Department of Labor Office of Inspector General Office of Investigations – Labor Racketeering and Fraud**



### **New York Region**

Jonathan Mellone  
Special Agent-in-Charge  
Phone: (908) 301-8105  
[mellone.jonathan@oig.dol.gov](mailto:mellone.jonathan@oig.dol.gov)

Shannon Woolard  
Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge  
Phone: (646) 264-3554  
New York City & Albany Offices  
[woolard.shannon@oig.dol.gov](mailto:woolard.shannon@oig.dol.gov)

Peter Nozka  
Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge  
New Jersey & Puerto Rico Offices  
Phone: (908) 301-8106  
[nozka.peter@oig.dol.gov](mailto:nozka.peter@oig.dol.gov)

Nikitas Splagounias  
Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge  
Boston, Rhode Island, & Buffalo Offices  
Phone: (617) 565-2245  
[splagounias.nikitas@oig.dol.gov](mailto:splagounias.nikitas@oig.dol.gov)

## **DOL-OIG Jurisdiction**

### **Employee benefit plans:**

These are investigations into pension and health care plans. The vast sum of money involved in this industry makes it inherently vulnerable to corruption. Currently, there are trillions of dollars in ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act) covered government protected plans.

### **Labor Management Relations:**

These are investigations that involve the corrupt relationship between company management and union officials. These cases range from collusion between representatives of management and corrupt union officials to the use of threat of labor problems to extort money from employers.

### **Internal Union Affairs:**

These are investigations that involve the criminal abuse of power related to union finances or property and damages to the democratic practices. Generally, these investigations focus on situations in which organized crime groups control or influence a labor organization, frequently to influence an industry for corrupt purposes or to operate traditional vice schemes.

### **Hobbs Act Investigations:**

The Hobbs Act prohibits the obstruction of commerce by robbery or extortion. It was enacted in 1946 primarily in response to labor-related extortion being carried out by certain unions. While preserving the rights of unions to strike and picket, it is the intent of the Hobbs Act to protect interstate commerce from robbery and extortion by anyone, including corrupt union members and officials.

### **Unemployment Insurance Program (UI):**

These are investigations that involve fraud within the UI program. DOL-OIG has primarily focused on two types of fraud within the UI program:

#### **(1) Fictitious employer schemes**

These schemes involve individuals who establish fictitious businesses with ghost employees, then “lay off” these ghost employees and obtain the UI benefits of their ghost employees.

#### **(2) Fraudulent employers**

A fraudulent employer is an employer who has a legitimate business with real employees. The fraudulent employer creates ghost employees, in addition to their legitimate ones. The fraudulent employer, like the fictitious employer, will “lay off” their ghost employees and collect the benefits of these ghost employees, or pay the employees reduced cash wages supplemented by fraudulent UI benefits.

### **Foreign Labor Certification (FLC) Program:**

FLC investigations involve frauds perpetrated against the FLC Program. These investigations involve Employers and/or their agents (i.e. immigration attorneys) who acquire visas from the FLC Program through fraudulent means.

### **Workforce Exploitation:**

These investigations involve prevailing wage violations, criminal OSHA violations, forced kickback of wages, and involuntary servitude or peonage.

### **Contract/Grant Fraud:**

These investigations involve allegations of bribery and corruption, bid rigging, kickbacks, and embezzlement of funds.

### **Internal Affairs:**

The DOL-OIG is the internal affairs for the Department of Labor. DOL-OIG agents investigate criminal acts committed by DOL employees. Investigations include bribes, kickbacks, and corruption.

