

RE: Ethics Questions Re: Government Employees  
Contact OGE <contactoge@oge.gov>  
Thu 4/18/2013 7:44 AM  
To: John Hnatio

Dear Mr. Hnatio:

This is in response to your email and voice mail to the United States Office of Government Ethics (OGE).

OGE was established by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to be the office responsible for setting policies aimed at the prevention of conflicts of interest in the executive branch of the Federal Government. OGE, a small agency within the executive branch, assists other executive branch departments and agencies to implement ethics rules and policies that deal with conflict-of-interest laws, post-employment restrictions, the standards of ethical conduct, and the public and confidential financial disclosure systems.

After reviewing the information you provided in your email, it has been determined that the issues you raise do not warrant action by OGE's Director. OGE's jurisdiction extends only to the specific ethics issues described above within the executive branch of the U.S. Government. OGE does not undertake for investigation the allegations of misconduct of the type you describe in your email. In most cases, it would be the Inspector General of the department or agency involved who would determine whether to investigate such alleged misconduct. In addition, in appropriate cases, the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice may determine to investigate alleged misconduct of federal employees.

We regret that this office could not be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

United States Office of Government Ethics

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From: John Hnatio [mailto:jhnatio@thoughtquest.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 4:11 PM  
To: Contact OGE

Subject: Ethics Questions Re: Government Employees

Hello. We are a small business that has been victimized by the government. Several government employees at the Food and Drug Administration have acted unethically by stealing our intellectual property (patent and trade secrets and other confidential information) and using the information to duplicate our products to force us out of business. You can get a brief over view of our situation by visiting the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKHdJhGLQok>

I called today to see who the expert is at your office on dealing with unethical conduct by government employees and to file a formal complaint and left a voice mail on your general call line. Thank-you for your help. My contact information appears below. Best, John

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