

# Summary: Former DOI Official Violated Conflict of Interest Rules

Report Date: December 29, 2025

Report Number: 24-0734

The OIG investigated allegations that Casey Hammond, former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management at the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), violated Federal conflict of interest requirements on post-employment representation. After leaving employment at DOI, Hammond contacted a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) official on behalf of a client inquiring about a refund on a specific Federal coal lease on which Hammond had worked while Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary at DOI. We substantiated the allegations.

On October 19, 2022, we presented our findings to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia as a potential violation of 18 U.S.C. § 207, which restricts former employees of the executive branch from knowingly making, with the intent to influence, any communication to or appearance before any department, agency, or court on behalf of any other person in connection with a particular matter in which the United States is a party or has a direct and substantial interest, in which the person participated personally and substantially as a U.S. Government officer or employee, and which involved a specific party or specific parties at the time of such participation. The case was accepted for civil prosecution. A settlement agreement was executed on October 15, 2025, which required Hammond to pay \$31,500 to the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The settlement agreement acknowledged that it was made in compromise of disputed claims and not an admission of facts, liability, or wrongdoing.

This is a summary of an investigative report we issued to the Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

