



Listen Live



Justin Doubleday | @jdoubledayWFED
February 10, 2025 6:05 pm ⌚ 3 min read



Trump fires top government ethics, whistleblower officials



00:00:00

President Donald Trump has fired the federal government's top ethics official just months into his five-year term, while also drawing a legal challenge for seeking to remove the head of the independent Office of Special Counsel.

The Office of Government Ethics on Monday posted a notice

This website utilizes technologies such as cookies to enable essential site functionality, as well as for analytics, personalization, and targeted advertising. You may change your settings at any time or accept the default settings. You may close this banner to continue with only essential cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)

[Storage Preferences](#)

- Targeted Advertising
- Personalization
- Analytics

Save

Accept All

Reject All

— Join us May 11 for Federal News Network's Risk & Compliance Exchange as government and industry experts discuss how to navigate evolving cybersecurity mandates and accelerate secure adoption of emerging technologies.

(https://federalnewsnetwork.com/cme-event/exchanges/federal-news-networks-risk-compliance-exchange-2026/?utm_source=megamenu&utm_medium=web&utm_content=upcoming_events&utm_term=events?utm_medium=referral&utm_source=in-article_promo&utm_campaign=ai_compliance&utm_content=in-articlepromo)

The Senate confirmed Huitema as OGE director in December. The position is typically a five-year term.

OGE is an independent agency that works to prevent conflicts of interest within the executive branch. The office would be deeply involved in helping resolve conflicts of interest for the new Trump administration's procession of political appointees.

Huitema's firing comes just days after Trump directed the removal of Special Counsel Hampton Dellinger, who had overseen the Office of Special Counsel since March 2024.

Dellinger is now [suing](https://manage.heckerfink.com/sites/default/files/2025-02/Dellinger%20-%20Complaint.pdf) (https://manage.heckerfink.com/sites/default/files/2025-02/Dellinger%20-%20Complaint.pdf) Trump administration officials over his attempted removal. The Special Counsel position is typically a five-year term. Dellinger's suit points to the law, which states the position can be terminated "only for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office."

Late Monday, the judge in the case issued an administrative stay allowing Dellinger to stay on the job through at least midnight on Thursday. The Justice Department said it would appeal that ruling.

The [Office of Special Counsel is an independent agency](https://federalnewsnetwork.com/federal-report/2025/01/office-of-special-counsel-has-growing-staffing-concerns-amid-record-caseload/) (https://federalnewsnetwork.com/federal-report/2025/01/office-of-special-counsel-has-growing-staffing-concerns-amid-record-caseload/) charged with protecting federal employee rights and safeguarding the merit system. It investigates allegations of prohibited personnel practices, including whistleblower retaliation. The office also upholds the Hatch Act's prohibition on partisan political activities for federal employees.

Faith Williams, director of the Effective and Accountable Government Program at the Project on Government Oversight, said the move to dismiss Dellinger could be a potential whistleblower retaliation to silence the floor over fraud, waste and abuse.

This website utilizes technologies such as cookies to enable essential site functionality, as well as for analytics, personalization, and targeted advertising. You may change your settings at any time or accept the default settings. You may close this banner to continue with only essential cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)

[Storage Preferences](#)

- Targeted Advertising
- Personalization
- Analytics

Trump over the weekend also fired National Archivist of the United States Colleen Shogan, who had served on position since 2023. The Archivist has no fixed term, but the job is typically considered nonpartisan. The last permanent Archivist, David Ferriero, served in the position from 2009 to 2022.

The latest firings comes several weeks after Trump fired the inspectors general at 17 agencies [without providing the required 30-day notification to Congress.](https://federalnewsnetwork.com/agency-oversight/2025/01/inspectors-general-may-be-fired-but-thats-not-the-end-of-the-story/) (<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/agency-oversight/2025/01/inspectors-general-may-be-fired-but-thats-not-the-end-of-the-story/>).

"I think it is a deliberate strategy to overwhelm and to come at all of the bulwarks against fraud and waste and ethics concerns all at once," Williams said.

Copyright © 2026 Federal News Network. All rights reserved. This website is not intended for users located within the European Economic Area.



Justin Doubleday

Justin Doubleday covers cybersecurity, homeland security and the intelligence community for Federal News Network.

Follow @jdoubledayWFED

Sign up for breaking news.

Around the Web

Every Move Counts

Wallester

Cardiologist: Too Much Belly Fat? Do This Before Bed

Healthier Living

12x More Efficient Than Solar Panels? Prepper's Invention Takes Country by Storm

The Lost Generator

Surgeon Reveals: Simple Method Ends Joint Pain & Arthritis (Watch)

Healthier Living

These 2 Veggies Melt Belly & Arm Fat Overnight

Healthier Living

Travel The World for Less: 27 Budget Destinations

Viral Vacation Ideas

South America Awaits: Unveiling the Top 10 Experiences

Viral Vacation Ideas

Jamaica Travel Guide: Uncover the Secrets of This Caribbean Jewel

Viral Vacation Ideas

Stop Paying Too Much for Your Prescriptions - Compare Prices Today



This website utilizes technologies such as cookies to enable essential site functionality, as well as for analytics, personalization, and targeted advertising. You may change your settings at any time or accept the default settings. You may close this banner to continue with only essential cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)

[Storage Preferences](#)

- Targeted Advertising
- Personalization
- Analytics

Ask the CIO: Defense Cyber Crime Center

Federal Executive Forum Secure Data Sharing Strategies in Government 2026 Progress & Best Practices

More

TOP STORIES

White House seeks \$17.5 billion for Golden Dome, but most funding hinges on reconciliation

BUDGET

White House asks for record \$75.7B for civilian agency IT

BUDGET

OPM calls on federal insurance carriers to promote 'well care,' cut costs

BENEFITS

GSA looks to rebuild workforce after widespread layoffs last year

HIRING/RETENTION

VA reverses course, restores union contracts following judge's rebuke

UNIONS

Political appointments surging, career SES workforce shrinking under Trump 2.0

WORKFORCE



News Team

Podcasts

Careers

Events

Contact Us

Advertise

Newsletters

Partners

Publications

Terms of Use Copyright/Usage Policy DMCA Notice Privacy Policy EEO Report FCC Online Public Inspection File FCC Applications Cookie Preferences

Copyright 2024 Hubbard Radio Washington DC, LLC. All rights reserved. This website is not intended for users located within the European Economic Area

This website utilizes technologies such as cookies to enable essential site functionality, as well as for analytics, personalization, and targeted advertising. You may change your settings at any time or accept the default settings. You may close this banner to continue with only essential cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)

Storage Preferences

- Targeted Advertising
Personalization
Analytics