



SEC OIG INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

August 17, 2026



SEC OIG issued a Fraud Alert warning of imposters purporting to be SEC officials

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) initiated an investigation based on a referral by Division of Enforcement (ENF) staff in one of the SEC's regional offices. According to the ENF staff, an attorney representing a victim in an ongoing ENF action reported that his client was contacted by someone purporting to be an "SEC Investigator" named "Frank Harris," when in fact no such employee works at the SEC.

The OIG initiated an investigation to identify the SEC imposter, who had provided to the victim an emailed image of false credentials, and solicited personally identifiable and financial information. Based on the emails provided to the OIG from the victim, the OIG suspects the impersonator, who elaborately backstopped the scheme with other imposter emails from a purported U.S. Court, would have attempted to further defraud the victim through an advanced pay scheme.

The victim declined to assist the OIG with the criminal investigation into the imposter, and all indications were the fraud scheme originated overseas, forcing the OIG to close its criminal investigation.

On June 22, 2026, the OIG [published a fraud alert](#) to warn potential victims about this type of imposter scheme.

