



Elaine M. Howle *State Auditor*

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## Investigations of Improper Activities by State Agencies and Employees

*Inaccurate Attendance Records, Violation of State Laws, and Misuse of State Resources*

### Background

The California Whistleblower Protection Act (Whistleblower Act) empowers the State Auditor to investigate allegations of improper governmental activities by state agencies and employees. The Whistleblower Act defines an "improper governmental activity" as any action by a state agency or employee during the performance of official duties that violates a law; is economically wasteful; or involves gross misconduct, incompetence, or inefficiency. Since 1993, when the State Auditor activated the hotline, it has identified improper governmental activities that have cost the State a total of \$576.6 million.

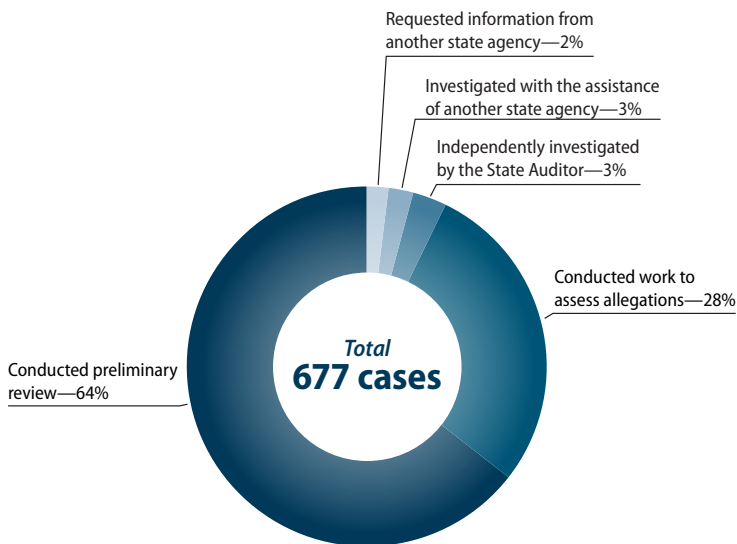
### Key Findings

From January 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017, the State Auditor's Office:

- Received roughly 660 calls or inquiries from the whistleblower hotline, facsimile, mail, website, in-person visit, or an internal source.
- Conducted work on 677 cases that were opened either in previous periods or the current period and conducted follow-up work for nine previously reported cases.
- Investigated and substantiated allegations independently or with the assistance of another state agency. This report details the results of six of those investigations, including the following:
  - » A psychiatric technician regularly arrived late, left early, and took long lunches without recording the absences while volunteering to work overtime and earning improper overtime pay.
  - » An administrative supervisor did not charge her leave balances when she was absent part of the day for years and, thus, worked fewer than 40 hours a week and only accounted for full-day absences.
  - » An analyst misused state resources when she used her state email to conduct personal business.

### Status of Cases

January 2017 Through June 2017



**For complaints of state employee misconduct, contact us through one of the following methods:**

- Whistleblower Hotline | 1.800.952.5665
- auditor.ca.gov/hotline
- INVESTIGATIONS, California State Auditor  
PO Box 1019 | Sacramento | CA | 95812
- Whistleblower FAX line | 916.322.2603