

Twitter Thread by Matthew Hoppock



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@MatthewHoppock



There's more in the OIG report about IJ hiring than just the sexual harassment stuff. In this example, a senior EOIR employee involved in IJ hiring personally intervened for one candidate and replaced one of the judges on her hiring panel "to improve her chances of being hired." <https://t.co/SxRD5IYmDu>

\U0001f6a8New investigation: \U0001f6a8

How sexual harassment and misconduct has been allowed to flourish in the immigration courts, a system intended to give immigrants a fair chance to stay in the U.S.:<https://t.co/Lw8hpK5jSe>

— Tal Kopan (@TalKopan) January 22, 2021

It was his day off, but he came into the office anyway to intervene in this particular candidate's hiring. He invited her to his office to admire the view, escorted her to the interview room, and then invited her to his apartment afterward to change clothes.

It's alarming how much of this report is redacted - and there are more records they haven't turned over. The OIG said these actions communicated to the hiring panel that she was his close friend and that he "was providing her preferential treatment based on his relationship"

He had already written her a recommendation letter and wasn't supposed to be involved in her hiring process at all.

Aside from the specific individuals the article names, the OIG report says the use of code words to rate attractiveness was so widely known, one person said she had heard it from "enough people that I can't even remember."

One person the OIG interviewed said this group would use their code words about female candidates as a way to "poke at" a female employee because they knew it "bugged" her. Imagine the kind of workplace culture that allows this.

The investigation by @TalKopan named one of them. But the OIG report was broader - it said "senior managers" at EOIR had developed these code words. And one of them, when interviewed by the OIG, had not told the truth about it. The OIG report chalks it up to "poor judgment"

Aside from rating female IJ candidates, a group of EOIR employees made sexual jokes in the workplace.

The OIG said this conduct didn't violate the DOJ's policies because the conduct was not "unwelcome." Just "poor judgment" they said.