



U.S. Department of Justice

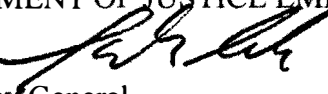
Office of the Deputy Attorney General

The Deputy Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

April 10, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EMPLOYEES

FROM: James M. Cole 
Deputy Attorney General

SUBJECT: Whistleblower Training Video

Employees of the Department of Justice perform an important service to the Department and the public when they report waste, fraud, or abuse within Department programs or by its employees, contractors, or grantees. Such information may be reported to supervisors within your offices, to the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (DOJ OIG), or outside the Department to the U.S. Office of Special Counsel.

The Department is committed to protecting its employees from retaliation if they make a report of possible waste, fraud, or abuse. Even before it was required by the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012, the DOJ OIG created a Whistleblower Ombudsperson program with a focus on educating Department employees and managers about whistleblower rights and protections. Toward this end, the OIG, working in conjunction with the Office of Legal Education and JTN, has created a brief video outlining the important rights and protections for persons who “blow the whistle” on wrongdoing. Understanding these rights and protections is an important responsibility for all Department employees. Accordingly, I encourage all employees to view the video entitled “Reporting Wrongdoing: Whistleblowers and their Rights and Protections” (available on JTN and learnDOJ’s Video on Demand). This video may count as one of several options toward fulfilling the one-hour equal employment opportunity portion of the annual professionalism training, for those employees who are subject to the professionalism training requirement.¹

Whistleblower complaints can be submitted to the OIG through its hotline, which is available online at the OIG’s website, www.usdoj.gov/oig/. Additional information about whistleblower rights and protections and the OIG Whistleblower Ombudsperson Program is available at the same site. If you have additional questions about whistleblower rights and protections, you may also contact the OIG Whistleblower Ombudsperson Program at OIG.Whistleblower.Ombudsperson.Program@usdoj.gov.

¹ The OIG’s video runs approximately 23 minutes, which will fulfill a portion of the one-hour equal employment opportunity professionalism requirement. The remaining portion of the requirement will need to be fulfilled by viewing other designated equal employment opportunity training.

Department employees also should remember that they must report to their supervisor or the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) any evidence or non-frivolous allegation of misconduct against a Department attorney when that misconduct relates to the attorney's authority to investigate, litigate, or provide legal advice. Just as with those who make a whistleblower complaint, the Department is committed to protecting from retaliation anyone who makes a report of possible attorney misconduct. If you have questions about whether something should be reported to OPR, or about OPR's procedures for handling complaints, you may contact OPR's senior Associate Counsel at opr.hotline@usdoj.gov.