

SEC Whistleblowers Will Protect Investors and Earn Their Rewards

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July 28, 2011 – In an [lengthy opinion piece](#) published in today's *National Law Journal*, whistleblower lawyers David J. Marshall and Alison Asarnow explain that the new SEC whistleblower program serves and important public interest in addressing securities violations and also provides the incentives that are needed to help employees overcome their fears of retaliation and provide information about such violations to the SEC. According to Marshall and Asarnow, "The SEC whistleblower program cannot eliminate the fear of losing a job for speaking out, but its financial incentives — awards of 10% to 30% of any amount the SEC collects through enforcement actions that collect above \$1 million — will surely help motivate many whistleblowers who would otherwise be too intimidated by the threat of retaliation to come forward with their information." The article published today points to the role that monetary rewards can play in helping the SEC enforce securities laws. "Providing cash incentives to whistleblowers not only will encourage compliance with corporate-finance laws," Marshall and Asarnow maintain, "but also will help restore the public's confidence that government regulators can protect them against ruin when they invest in the financial markets. This is critically important in a time when investment-based retirement plans have effectively replaced the defined-benefit pensions that corporations once provided to their employees."