

MEISSNER ASSOCIATES

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Leading Whistleblower Attorney Stuart Meissner, Looking to Preserve Whistleblower Protections under Trump Administration, Meets in Washington with Senator Charles Grassley and SEC's Top Whistleblower Chief Jane Norberg

Mr. Meissner, an early Trump supporter, argues that whistleblower program is fully compatible with president-elect's pro-business outlook; SEC program is a key tool in helping "drain the swamp"

NEW YORK (December 7, 2016) – With Donald Trump vowing to dismantle parts of the DoddFrank financial reform legislation, many are wondering what the president-elect intends to do with corporate whistleblower provisions entitling individuals who report wrongdoing at public companies a portion of any settlement reached with the Securities & Exchange Commission.

Among Trump supporters hoping to keep the provisions intact is leading whistleblower attorney [Stuart Meissner](#), who traveled to Washington this week to meet with two of the most important government forces for preserving whistleblower protection: [Jane Norberg](#), who was recently appointed chief of the SEC's Office of the Whistleblower, along with Iowa [Senator Charles Grassley](#), (R-IA) Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and an outspoken whistleblower advocate.

Mr. Meissner is certain that the President-elect's unabashed pro-business outlook is compatible with maintaining strong protections and financial incentives for whistleblowers who help identify misconduct at companies and investment funds regulated by the SEC.

"Heartened by Donald Trump's fierce political independence and his refusal to accept major donations from Wall Street during the campaign, I became an early supporter and even volunteer for his candidacy," Mr. Meissner said.

"The SEC's whistleblower program has been a critical factor in rooting out corporate misdeeds since the financial crisis – the fact that it encourages individuals to file complaints with the SEC to assist in cleaning up corporate America is in line with Trump's mission to 'drain the swamp,'" he continued. "I hope to use whatever influence I have in this space to ensure continued support for this successful effort within Congress and the SEC."

Regarding his meeting with Senator Grassley, Mr. Meissner added: "Our meeting was very productive and it was clear that the Senator and I are on the same page when it comes to making sure that the Whistleblower provisions of Dodd Frank are not only maintained, but that just as important, that the significant corporate sanctions the SEC issue are also preserved, so that whistleblowers have the incentive to continue to come forward to make it worthwhile for them to do so in comparison to the risks that they take".

Mr. Meissner next intends to meet with [Senator Richard Shelby](#), (R-AI) Chairman of the Banking

Committee, which will approve the next Chairperson of the SEC along with two new vacant SEC Commissioner positions. Those appointments will likely influence the future of such sanctions and the SEC Whistleblower Program.

Mr. Meissner, a former prosecutor who served in the Manhattan District Attorney's office as well as the New York Attorney General's office [helped draft some of the language of the SEC's final whistleblower rules](#). He has represented a number of whistleblowers, including one who this past August was awarded \$22.5 million for his role in identifying accounting irregularities at Monsanto, part of an \$80 million settlement the SEC reached with the agribusiness company. It was the largest bounty payment ever made to a U.S. citizen under the program: <http://www.secwhistleblowerattorney.net/sec-whistleblower-attorney-award.html>

Based in New York, Mr. Meissner went to Washington to accompany a client in a new accounting related whistleblower matter with the SEC enforcement staff. "I was extremely encouraged to have an opportunity to meet with both Ms. Norberg and Senator Grassley, both of whom play such a vital part in safeguarding whistleblower rights, one from the standpoint of enforcement and the other as a guardian of the legislation that allows whistleblowers to step forward," he said.

"There was no mystery to our discussion – my goal was to share what I believe is the cornerstone function in business today and to discuss how we can continue to sustain and promote the whistleblower program under the new Trump administration to uncover securities fraud, corruption, accounting fraud and other bad behavior," he added. "Anything the new administration can do to encourage future whistleblowers in having the courage to come forward in the face of corporate wrongdoing is great for America."

Note: New York based Meissner Associates is a nationally recognized whistleblower, securities, SEC regulatory defense, investment fraud and employment law firm representing SEC whistleblowers and securities professionals as well as institutional and retail investors worldwide in recovering improper investment losses and protecting the rights of employees in the securities industry in FINRA arbitration and AAA Arbitration. Managing member Stuart Meissner is a former Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan and Assistant New York State Attorney General in the Investor Protection and Financial Crimes Units. Mr. Meissner contributed to the crafting of the original SEC Whistleblower Rules and is cited by the agency for his contributions. For more, visit www.secwhistleblowerattorney.net.



With Senate Judiciary Chair Chuck
Grassley (R-IA)
12/6/16



With Jane Norberg,
Director of SEC Whistleblower Office
12/6/16