

THE DAILY BRIEF

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London firm joins transatlantic whistleblower group

A City of London law firm has linked with counterparts in the US and Europe to provide international advice to prospective corporate and public services whistleblowers.

Brahams Dutt Badrick French yesterday unveiled an arrangement with Meissner & Associates, billed as having recently “secured the largest payment issued to any individual US whistleblower”. The third player in the team is Naegele, a firm based in Berlin and Stuttgart.

Stuart Meissner, the named partner at the New York practice, recently represented a former financial executive at Monsanto, the international agricultural business. The employee had identified audit lapses at the company that led to a \$22.5 million award in August, described as “by far the largest bounty” ever paid to any US whistleblower.

The prospect of paying whistleblowers bounties in the UK is highly contentious.

Meissner – a former securities regulator and prosecutor with the Manhattan District Attorney’s office and the New York attorney general – pointed out that while the bounty programme operated by the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington had “yielded a large harvest of payments in the US, most of those working for regulated companies in other countries have not taken advantage of the mechanism, even though most of the same rules apply for individuals working overseas, who have little or no protection for blowing the whistle”.