

2023

National Whistleblower Center

ANNUAL REPORT



About Us:

National Whistleblower Center ("NWC") is the world's leading whistleblower organization. NWC has impacted whistleblower policies and protections since 1988. Our Board of Directors is composed of long-term whistleblower advocates, whistleblowers, and non-profit experts committed to justice.

2023 Key Accomplishments

Celebrating 10 years of National Whistleblower Day

NWC celebrated National Whistleblower Day this year on Capitol Hill and with an after-party at our Georgetown Offices. Over 300 people celebrated the day at the events. Mayor Bowser recognized National Whistleblower Day for the first time.

Legislative Wins

NWC celebrated major wins in AML legislation with the passage of the AML Whistleblower Improvement Act at the close of 2022. Its passage prompted the drafting of SEC, IRS, CFPB and DOT Whistleblower legislation throughout 2023. NWC's presence in international rulemaking and legislation reached new countries.

Increased Judicial Action

NWC's own Executive Director, Siri Nelson, was sworn in to the Supreme Court in November, doubling the Center's access to the court. NWC submitted *Amicus Curiae* Briefs in key cases such as for the reinstatement of Exxon Mobile Whistleblowers and for SOX Whistleblowers. One of which has already seen a victory ruling!

@stopfraud

info@whistleblowers.org

@nationalwhistleblowercenter



Our Board of Directors:

National Whistleblower Center has an engaged Board of Directors who bring their expertise and passion for whistleblower rights to our mission.



Stephen Kohn
Chairman



Michael Kohn
President



Mark Toney
Director



Mary Jane Wilmoth
Secretary/Treasurer



Jane Turner
FBI Whistleblower



Dr. Fred Whitehurst
FBI Whistleblower



Gina Green
Director / Professor
Earth Commons Inst.

NWC's Board of Directors includes:

- Chairman, Stephen Kohn, Founder and Expert Whistleblower Attorney.
- President, Michael Kohn, Founder and Expert Whistleblower Attorney.
- Director, Mark Toney, Executive Director at The Utility Reform Network.
- Secretary & Treasurer, Mary Jane Wilmoth, Expert Whistleblower Attorney.
- FBI Whistleblower, Jane Turner, Journalist.
- FBI Whistleblower, Dr. Fredrick Whitehurst.
- Director and Professor at Georgetown University Earth Commons Institute, Dr. Gina Green.

From our Executive Director

In 2023 we celebrated 10 years of National Whistleblower Day (NWD) resolutions by the United States Senate, and this gave us an opportunity to reflect on the incredible work that NWC has achieved to change the culture around whistleblowing. Over a decade NWD has expanded to have a global reach and a historic number of federal agencies have accepted whistleblowing as a core component of anti-corruption efforts.

I was sworn in as a member of the Supreme Court Bar, joining Board Member Stephen Kohn and Board President Michael Kohn. In 2023, NWC filed two *amicus curiae* briefs at the Supreme Court preventing the watering down of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and the False Claims Act (FCA). We also filed an *amicus* in a Third Circuit case concerning Exxon Mobil whistleblowers.

This year, one of our highlights was the opportunity to participate in important advocacy at the United Nations Conference of States Parties for the Convention Against Corruption. At this convening NWC was recognized for our work in fighting Environmental Corruption, and engaged in outstanding efforts to highlight the incredible success of rewards programs, and the necessity for including whistleblower reward regimes in all anticorruption efforts.



Siri Nelson

Executive Director
National Whistleblower Center



2023 was an incredible and whirlwind year for NWC. We have achieved so much as a small, but growing team.

This work can sometimes be harrowing and the road sometimes appears blocked. But, with the strong support of whistleblowers and their advocates, NWC was able to forge major inroads for whistleblower rights.

Our tenth anniversary NWD celebration was incredible, and we look forward to continuing the campaign to mark National Whistleblower Day as a permanent day of Federal Observance.

Celebrating 10 Years of National Whistleblower Appreciation Day

Since its founding, National Whistleblower Center has advocated for whistleblower recognition and litigated individual cases. Twenty-five years of sustained practice culminated in the very first Senate resolution to recognize July 30th as National Whistleblower Day in 2013. Ever since, NWC has continued to work closely with Senator Grassley, who heads the Senate Whistleblower Protection Caucus, and has been instrumental to NWD celebrations over the next ten years, to celebrate whistleblowers and ensure robust implementation and policy evolution.

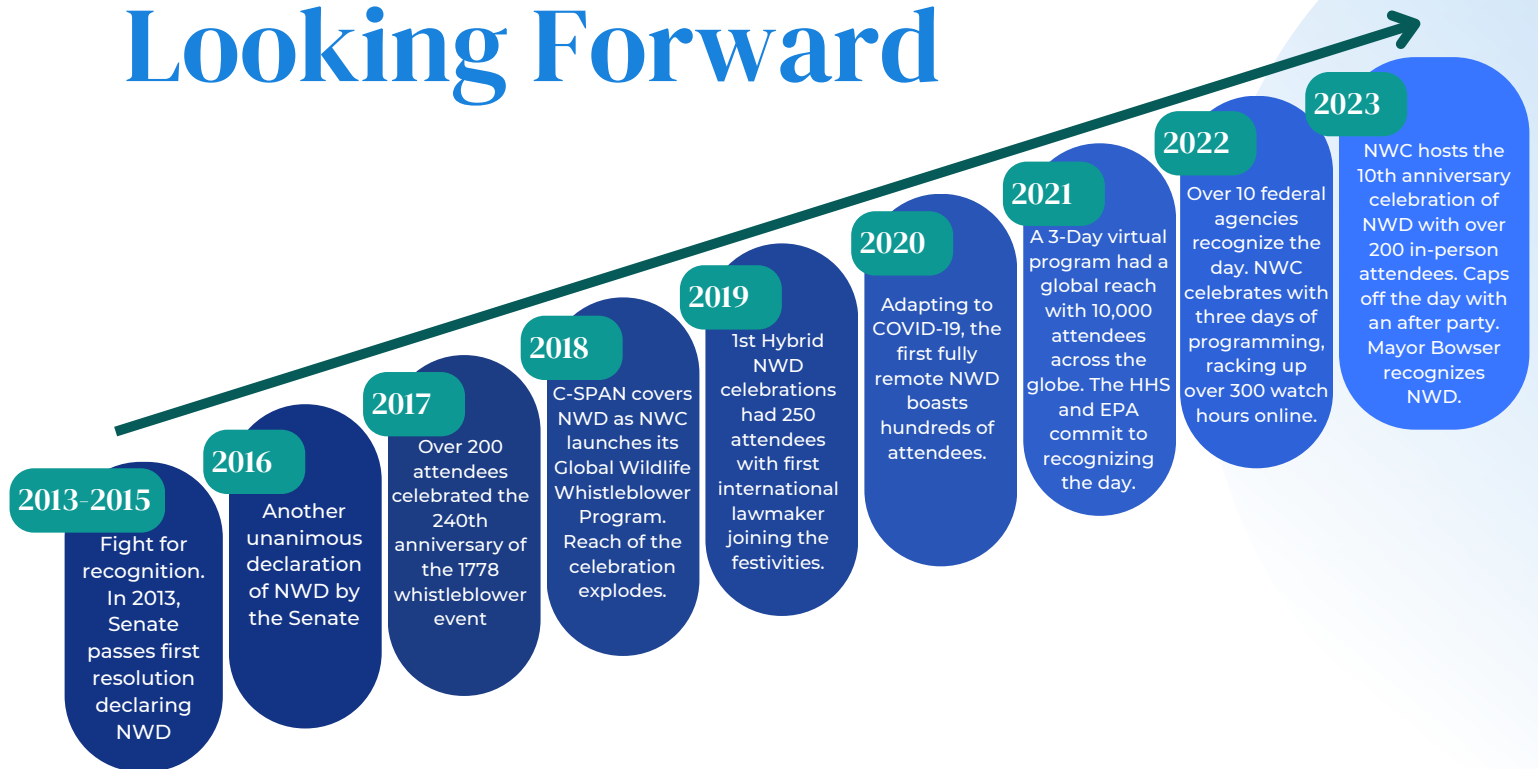
National Whistleblower Day brings together various stakeholders involved in the field of whistleblowing. Over the past decade, this day has evolved into hybrid models, increased reach through CSPAN and other media and diversified to include global participants. Every year, NWD is increasingly recognized by federal agencies like HHS, EPA, and others.



"There's no middle ground when it comes to whistleblowers. They must be protected and fought for. Full stop."

**-- Senator Charles Grassley
National Whistleblower Day,
2023**

NWD: Looking Back and Looking Forward



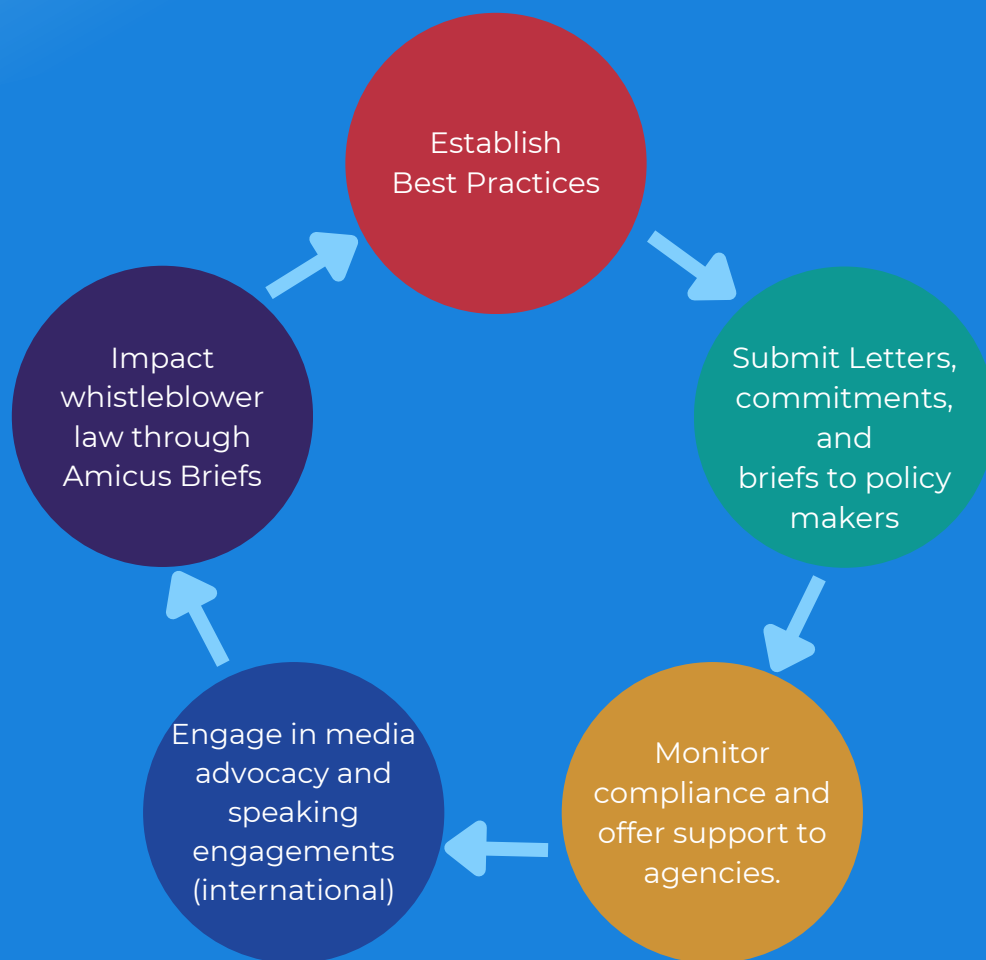
In the next decade, NWC envisions a five-point strategy for National Whistleblower Day:

- Continue celebrating whistleblowers every July 30!
- Continue support for the Campaign to Make National Whistleblower Day Permanent.
- Support the enactment of Executive Order mandating that all federal agencies recognize July 30th as National Whistleblower Day.
- Assist federal agencies to incorporate whistleblowing as a core anti-corruption strategy and educate federal employees about National Whistleblower Day.
- Work with global anti-corruption initiatives to incorporate whistleblower recognition.



Policy Progress

In 2023, NWC wrote over 100 letters to legislators and federal agencies to monitor policies, acknowledge their success, and to provide support and accountability.

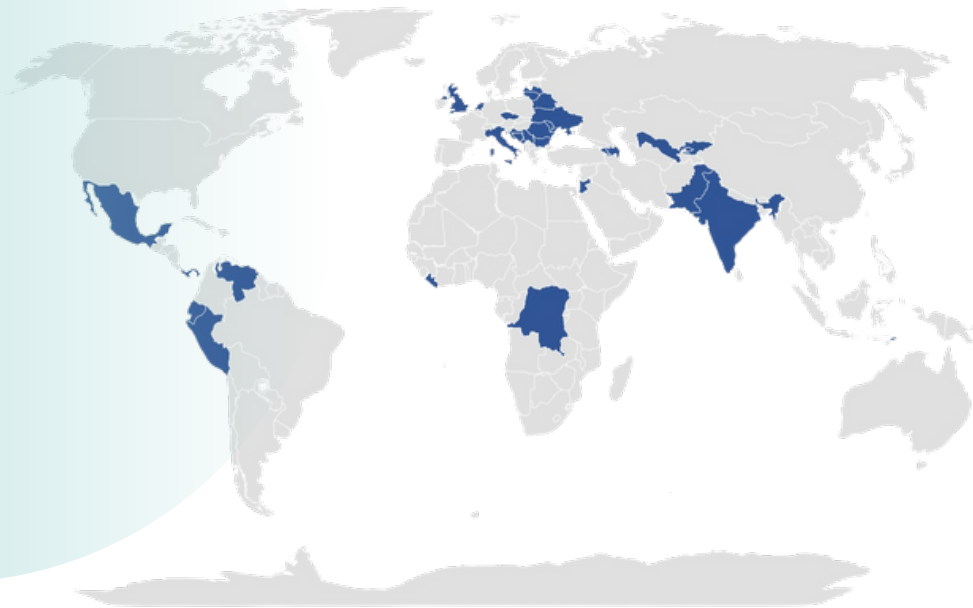


Policy Spotlight:

In December, NWC traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to participate in the UN's CoSP10. In anticipation of the major, international, anti-corruption conference, NWC joined 301 other civil society organizations and experts in signing an open letter addressed to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The letter called for a strong resolution to be adopted at CoSP10 to prevent and combat environmental crime and corruption. NWC's own Scott Hajost helped to write the letter, a major win for NWC's Climate Corruption Campaign which was launched in 2020. At the conference, our three person delegation worked tirelessly to advocate for whistleblower protections and rewards. Siri Nelson addressed the general body on four occasions, championing NWC's best practice principles. NWC was proud to champion whistleblowers to the global community and ensure their needs were front at center at the conference.



Global Growth



The **International Visitor Leadership Program** (IVLP) is the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program. NWC has partnered with the State Department on this program since 2008, giving presentations to visiting foreign leaders. In the past 15 years, we have given talks to over 80 countries.

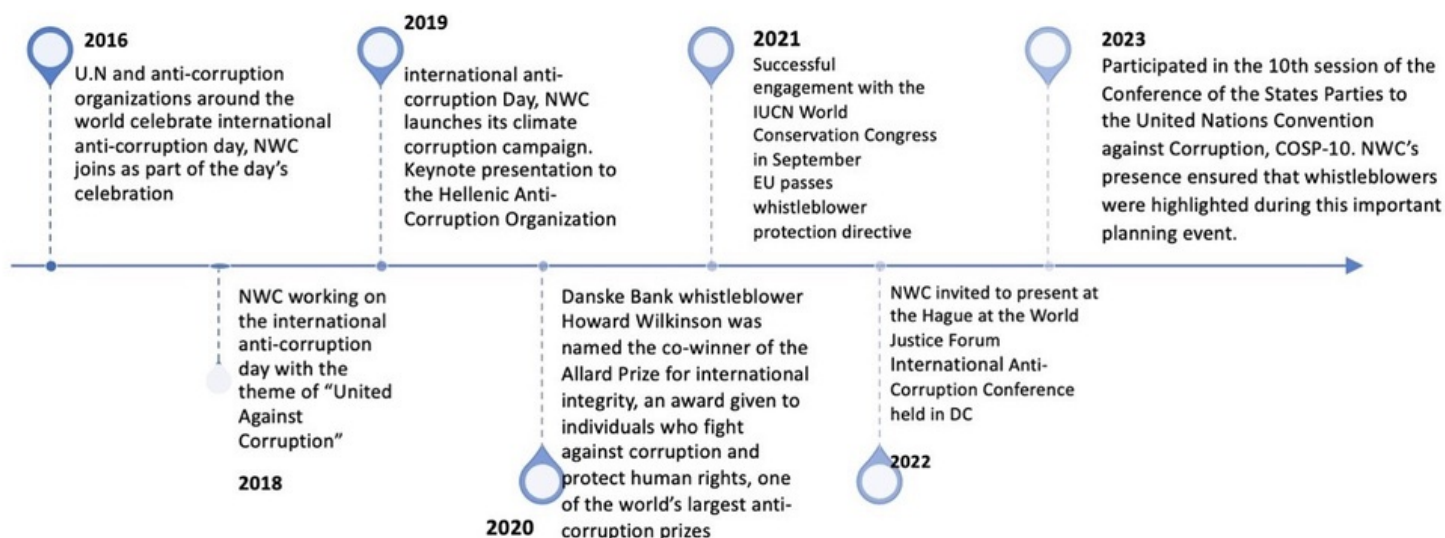
In **2023**, NWC participated in IVLP seminars for 30 countries. In addition, Siri Nelson joined eight international representatives to discuss whistleblowing in Washington D.C. as part of IVLP.

The **Americas Project** is a multi-year effort to increase awareness and support the adoption of effective whistleblower protection laws and transnational cooperation throughout the Americas.

In **2023**, Stephen Kohn delivered keynote speeches at a series of events in Mexico City and Monterrey, focused on ways whistleblowers in Mexico can use U.S. laws to fight corruption in the country

"I have been able to learn about Whistleblowers cases from the experience of their defense attorneys. This kind of knowledge is invaluable for an anti-corruption teacher such as myself."

— Maria de los Ángeles Estrada Gonzales
Americas Program Partner at Tec de Monterrey



Legislative Progress

Legislative Spotlight:

Since the passage of the AML Whistleblower Reform Act in late December of 2022, a new series of whistleblower bills have been introduced throughout 2023, offering a promising future for whistleblower legislation thanks to the new steam generated from the passage of the omnibus spending package

2023 Legislative Work

2022 AML Whistleblower Reform Act

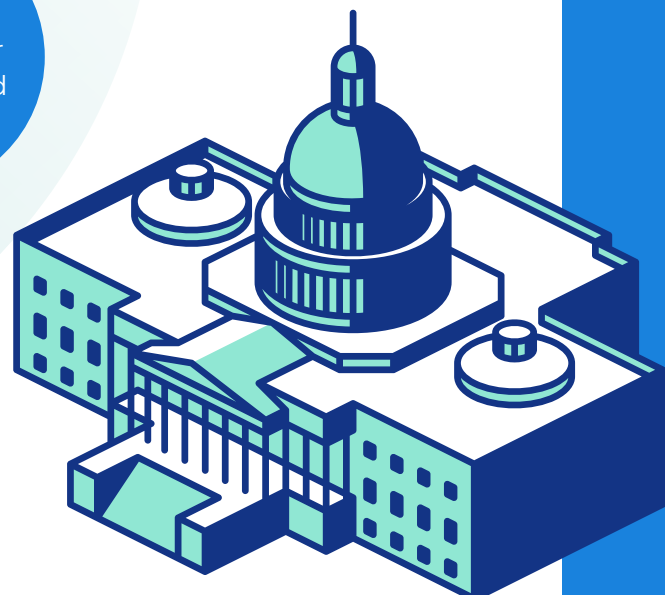
CFPB Whistleblower Rewards bill introduced

Wildlife whistleblower bill introduced

SEC Whistleblower Reform Act of 2023 introduced

Calls for the IRS Whistleblower Improvement Act of 2023

DOT whistleblower protections strengthened through FAST Act



2023 Amicus Round-Up



2023 was a successful year for NWC's action in the U.S. Supreme Court. In November, Executive Director Siri Nelson was sworn into the Supreme Court Bar, joining Chairman Stephen Kohn. Nelson's swearing in amplifies NWC's access to the Court, aiding our ability to submit *amicus curiae* briefs and to present arguments to the court.

In 2023, NWC filed three *amicus curiae* briefs. Two of the cases, *Murray v. UBS Securities* and *Lindsey Gulden and Damian Burch v. Exxon Mobil Corporation*, focused on the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and addressed issues surrounding reinstatement and retaliation. If not overturned, these cases could water down the protective impact of the SOX Act, putting thousands of whistleblowers at risk and reversing 20 years of precedent. In 2024, *Murray v. UBS* had a victory in the Supreme Court!

In a third case, NWC filed an *amicus curiae* brief in the Supreme Court's *United States ex rel. Schutte v. Supervalu*, a case that centers around the False Claims Act (FCA). This case successfully resolved in favor of strengthening the Act.

Mentoring the Next Generation of Whistleblower Advocates

NWC launched a Law Clerk Exchange Program in the summer of 2023. Program clerks work at NWC for the summer and spend part of their time at a local law firm. The first clerk, Titi Unegbu, was hosted at Zerbe, Miller, Fingeret, and Jadav.

NWC also hosted a highly successful internship program with 6 students, many from The University of California UCDC Program, which sends interested students to Washington, D.C. for a quarter to intern at their chosen site. Over 2023, the interns contributed 5 Sunday Reads. Which you can access here:

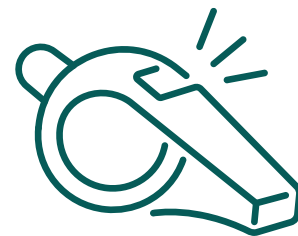
<https://nationalwhistleblowercenter.medium.com>



"NWC's bridge program uniquely allowed me to delve into both private and non-profit legal work. I am fortunate to say I was able to obtain incredible mentorship, including opportunities with the Washington Council of Lawyers."

- Titi Unegbu

Outreach:



Nobody plans to become a whistleblower. Whistleblowers face isolation and confusion. The NWC's public reach amplifies whistleblower issues and raises awareness, creating an informed general public that is ready to understand and protect whistleblowers during one of the hardest moments of their lives. Our supporters create a robust, global community that is critical to whistleblower protection

NWC Continues to Grow:



12,528 Followers



7,732 Followers



2,347 Followers



316 Followers

Across platforms, NWC's social media presence has grown in 2023. On some platforms, we saw over a 50% growth in following. In 2024, we aim to reach even more! Follow, like, and share our accounts today to spread the word and to get access to breaking news, whistleblower tips, and fun content!

“Rules for Whistleblowers: A Handbook for Doing What’s Right”

In 2023, NWC Chairman Stephen Kohn released his latest book, “Rules for Whistleblowers: A Handbook for Doing What’s Right.” This latest resource is a critical tool for whistleblowers, offering invaluable advice for whistleblowers and advocates alike.

The book's release was celebrated with an event at Busboys and Poets in Washington, D.C., hosted by Siri Nelson and Stephen Kohn.



Follow us!

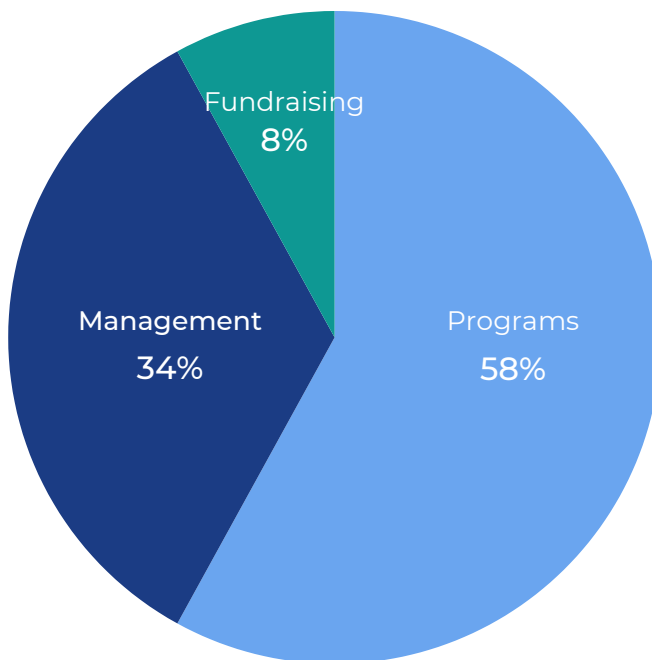
Twitter @StopFraud / Instagram @NationalWhistleblowerCenter

Thank You!

Our generous, dedicated network of donors and supporters enables our work here at NWC. None of this would be possible without you. Thank you for another amazing year of whistleblower advocacy!



2023 Expenses



Total Expenses: **\$448,000**

Major Donors:

Whistleblower Advocate

Over \$10,000

Whistleblower Legal Defense Foundation

Eric and Sue-Ann Siegel Family Foundation

Zerbe, Miller, Fingeret, & Jadav, LLP

Whistleblower Sponsor

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