

While at DOJ, I personally reviewed numerous reward applications in order to make recommendations as to which had merit and how much reward to pay. From the hundreds of cases assigned to me, I investigated allegations of fraud against 20 different federal agencies.

Over the years, I became efficient at quickly distinguishing between cases that were promising and cases we referred to as “dogs.” I have gained keen insights into the workings of the DOJ Reward Program that I am sharing with the public for the first time now.

### **Why Write this Book?**

Although it was a great pleasure to work at DOJ, I left with two frustrations.

First, despite the fact that huge awards are paid out every year, the program is still largely unknown to most people.

With hundreds of billions of dollars of undetected fraud, I want to see even more quality applications from those who know about fraud.

Second, many applications fall far short of meeting the requirements or offering any real value. They end up wasting the time of both the government officials and the whistleblower.

I always felt sorry for the individuals who had prepared their case and endured certain risks only to discover they were chasing a mirage — often due to poor preparation and inadequate advice! Because the average time for DOJ to decline a case is two years, these individuals needlessly wasted years of time and energy on false hope.

For over a decade, I have pondered the solutions to these vexing problems. This is my opportunity to share my solutions.

My first objective is to open wide the doors of the DOJ Reward Program by publicly sharing what should not be a secret:

**The government wants to partner with you to fight fraud.  
If you properly participate, you'll be justly rewarded.**

The second objective, which is equally important, is to improve the quality of reward applications by shedding light upon what it takes to meet the requirements of the program. To do so, I will explain why I believe many cases are not attractive to the government. It is my hope that this information will be of help, not only to potential

whistleblowers, but to their attorneys and the DOJ attorneys reviewing the cases as well.

Both goals are best realized through a candid discussion of the criteria of the programs, vivid examples of cases the government has embraced, and frank discussions regarding the importance of selecting counsel. You will find all of those elements in this book.

### ***Are You Eligible?***

Before exploring the substance of the reward programs, you may be wondering whether you know something that would make you eligible in one of the programs. In fact, one of the most frequently asked questions is “Am I eligible?” A close second is, “Who knows the type of information that the government needs and is willing to pay rewards?” You might be surprised at the answers. In fact, chances are that you, or someone you know, is in a position to find the type of information needed to make an application to the DOJ, state, or IRS.

Most large companies have government contracts or receive some grants or other government subsidies. You may think, “But my company would never cheat.” Maybe not, but the fact remains that nearly every major defense contractor has been sued at least once by the government for fraud. Most major hospitals, even the most respected in the nation, also have been required to repay funds to the government under these programs. The list of frauddoers includes the granddaddy of them all: pharmaceutical companies.

The modern-day reward programs extend to fraud against all 20-some government agencies, plus the myriad of state programs where a reward program has been enacted. Thus, it includes customs fraud, grant fraud (whether education or research), Homeland Security fraud, and fraud against every other agency or government program.

The bottom line is this: the reward programs apply to every company that receives any funds or property from the government. The scope of this book does not end with federal agencies. At least a dozen states have enacted similar reward programs to recapture state funds wrongfully obtained.

Since Congress has now authorized the IRS to revamp its reward program to model it after the DOJ Reward Program, the field has

expanded to the ultimate degree. Huge rewards are now available for reporting underpayment of federal taxes. While not everyone knows of a company with government contracts, federal taxes are paid by everyone you know.

### **You Can Be a Whistleblower**

By now, you may be thinking, “I could be a whistleblower...”

You’re right. So let me begin by addressing two important questions:

1. Where do you get the information?
2. How can you tell if you have a good case?

Forget about all the movies you have seen. These government reward programs are not action thrillers and modern whistleblowers need not save the world. It makes more sense to imagine a person who is correcting one wrong at a time with the help of others. A whistleblower is not a martyr, but someone who steps forward and truthfully reports when others fail to play by the rules.

Now, put aside everything else you may have read about whistleblowing. Misinformation and misconceptions abound.

There is a good reason why DOJ turns down nearly 80 percent of the applications filed. Most people do not understand these reward programs. They rush to file an application without organizing the information or showing clear evidence of fraud and assume that the government will be able to figure out for itself whether fraud occurred.

This practice cripples the programs and wastes everyone’s time. Because the programs are governed by specific laws, it only makes sense that there must be specific rules to follow for fraud to be demonstrated and rewards to be paid.

What you need most is an experienced guide. You need someone who knows how to avoid pitfalls, when a case is worth pursuing, and how to keep people from wasting time and energy. In this book, I will be your guide. I will draw from my 15-year service within the DOJ office administering the federal reward program at its headquarters in Washington, D.C.

### **A Team Approach**

A modern-day whistleblower does not need to uncover the entire plot and neatly wrap up all loose ends with fancy ribbons to place a