

Empowering Employees to Protect Food Integrity

Sponsored by:

The Government Accountability Project & American University Washington College of Law

November 20, 2009

**American University Washington College of Law
 4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Room 603, Washington, DC 20016**

This symposium acknowledges the role of employees as a first line of defense against food adulteration. Expert panelists discuss food integrity issues as well as new and pending laws, including whistleblower protections, which empower employees in the food industry to protect the integrity of our food supply. Specifically, panelists will address legal and legislative reforms, immigrant rights, humane handling, corporate farming, and the role of labor in food safety. Panel 1: Panelists will discuss the systemic failures, including insufficient state and federal regulations and inadequate employee protections, which led to the deadly salmonella outbreak in peanuts. Panel 2: Panelists discuss the food safety implications of inhumane handling, undocumented worker exploitation, and non-existent labor protections, which were all factors in the Westland-Hallmark meat recall. Panel 3: Panelists will share anecdotes, case studies, successes, failures and forecasts for progress in food integrity.

- 8:45 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Welcoming remarks by **Mark Niles**, AU-WCL
- 9:40 a.m. Introductory remarks by **Louis Clark**, President, Government Accountability Project (GAP)
- 10:00 a.m. Panel 1: It's Not Just Peanuts: A Case Study of the Peanut Corporation of America Recall
 Moderator: **Donna Rosenbaum**, Safe Tables Our Priority
 Panelists: **Michael Hansen**, Consumers Union; **Jeff Almer**, PCA Victim; Department; **John Williams**, International Brotherhood of Teamsters
- 11:00 a.m. Break
- 11:15 a.m. Panel 2: Recalling Westland-Hallmark: Lessons Learned from the Largest Meat Recall in History
 Moderator: **Michael Greger**, Humane Society of the United States
 Panelists: **Eric Nicholson**, United Farm Workers; **Mary Beth Sweetland**, Humane Society of the United States; **Carlos Rich**, Center for New Communities
- 12:15 p.m. Luncheon (on site)
- 1:15 p.m. Introduction of Luncheon Guest Speaker
- 1:20 p.m. Luncheon Guest Speaker:
- 2:00 p.m. Panel 3: Food Safety and Whistleblowing: Past Present and Future
 Moderator: **Tony Corbo**, Food and Water Watch
 Panelists: **Tom Devine**, Government Accountability Project; **Jackie Nowell**, United Food and Commercial Workers; **Stan Painter**, National Joint Council of Food Inspection Locals
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:15 Live taping of "Whistle Where You Work" with **David Kessler**, interviewed by **Mark Cohen**, Executive Director, the Government Accountability Project
- 4:45 p.m. Reception

REGISTRATION IS FREE, BUT REQUIRED

Please register by going to www.wcl.american.edu/secleregistration

For further information, please contact: Office of Special Events & Continuing Legal Education, American University Washington College of Law

Phone: 202.274.4075; Fax: 202.274.4079; or seclereg@wcl.american.edu

For questions about program content, please contact:

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