

WHAT WE DO | Internal Corporate Investigations

Internal corporate investigations comprise a core IGI practice area. IGI has nearly 30 years of institutional experience conducting and assisting in such investigations.

IGI typically is retained in these cases by, and works at the direction of and in close consultation with, a company's general counsel, board, audit or special committee, outside counsel or senior company executives.

Upon first discovering a potential issue, executives have an immediate need for facts to assess the bounds of the potential problem. With our knowledge of such issues as evidence preservation and chain of custody, IGI can assist in this initial assessment, reporting directly to executives or under the supervision of internal counsel. We also work effectively in support of investigations conducted by governing boards through outside counsel.

The cases take our investigators inside a company – from the boardroom to the mailroom and from headquarters to factory floor – and often take us outside the company as well, insofar as many internal investigations involve outside parties such as vendors or subcontractors – not all of which cooperate willingly.

In many cases, IGI has been credited with uncovering and securing 'smoking gun' documents and other crucial evidence. In such cases, IGI is positioned to refer matters to appropriate law enforcement and regulatory agencies, at the client's direction. In other cases, IGI has exonerated companies and individuals by conclusively refuting allegations.

IGI has conducted internal investigations worldwide for an array of Fortune 1000 companies, multinationals, privately held businesses, non-profit entities, trade associations, governmental bodies, police departments and labor union health insurance and pension funds.

Allegations IGI has investigated include:

- Accounting irregularities
- False statements or claims to government agencies
- Fraud
- Kickbacks
- Export control irregularities
- Money laundering
- Self-dealing
- Conflicts of interest
- Embezzlement
- Racial discrimination
- Sexual harassment
- Theft and leaks of proprietary information
- Trading on inside information

- Inventory losses
- Quality control issues
- Diversion of assets and business opportunities
- Malfeasance of corporate officers

Case Studies

- A prominent international organization retained our attorneys and investigators to conduct an internal investigation after learning that confidential documents and information had been misappropriated and leaked. Our scope of work included determining the extent and circumstances of the breach and conducting a security audit to assist the client in improving its document and IT management systems. In the course of our investigation, we captured and searched terabytes of data from the entity's file and exchange servers, analyzed financial records and materials published by individuals believed to have received misappropriated documents, and interviewed witnesses. The investigation and audit were supervised by our attorneys, who ensured compliance with legal and client-driven privacy considerations and provided legal counsel to the client through privileged communications and work product while ensuring that privilege was maintained over applicable portions of the investigation. Our deliverables included a comprehensive report and presentation of our findings and recommendations to the organization's board, which included a factual narrative detailing how certain individuals misappropriated and leaked proprietary documents and information.
- IGI assisted a major law firm in an internal investigation of a high-profile management scandal at a Fortune 500 corporation. Our work included performing searches for assets of executives suspected of abusing the company's relocation benefits program, forensically capturing and searching electronic messages and files on their company-owned computers, and assisting in provision of subpoenaed documents to prosecutors.
- A major commercial real estate company received an anonymous tip alleging improper payments to contractors. IGI assisted the company by discreetly identifying and securing the cooperation of the tipster, then gathering information from him through interviews and analysis of documents and information he provided. We managed the ensuing internal investigation, including forensic accounting analysis to develop leads provided by the tipster, interviewing the employee involved in the suspected fraud and referring the matter to law enforcement.
- Officials of a foreign state-owned company were accused of accepting millions of dollars of bribes and kickbacks from purported agents and intermediaries outside the company. IGI performed an internal investigation in the foreign country, located and interviewed the purported agents and intermediaries in the foreign country and in the United States, and gathered evidence including sworn witness affidavits that conclusively refuted the allegations. Furthermore, IGI traced the false accusations back to a propaganda campaign by political opponents of the head of the foreign government.