





Whistleblowing

Seminar Overview:

- What is whistleblowing?
- Hero vs traitor - the perspectives of whistleblowing
- Bradley Manning case study
- Edward Snowden case study
- How to whistleblow
- Exercise or discussion



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What is a whistleblower?

- An insider within an organization, who reports misconduct or dishonest or illegal activity that has occurred within that same organization.
- Such activities may include
 - violation of company policy or rules
 - violation of laws or regulations
 - threats to public interest or national security
 - fraud
 - corruption

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Hero vs Traitor

In every whistleblowing case, there will be a group who praise the whistleblower as a hero, and another group who denounce them as a traitor

The following case studies explore the idea of hero vs traitor

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Bradley/Chelsea Manning



- Indiscriminantly disclosed sensitive military secrets to Wikileaks
- Imprisoned for 35 years for violations of the Espionage Act and the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act
- Avoided the death sentence for aiding the enemy

Hero?

- exposed America's war on the Middle East
- exposed America's poor foreign policy

Traitor?

- exposed critical US secrets
- compromised national security

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Ethical analysis

- Manning believes he had a duty to society to shed light on American abuse of power
- Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013 and won "Person of the Year" in 2012
- Claims he did not initially intend on leaking the backed up data

Consequentialists argue that Manning's actions resulted in damage to national security and risked the lives of informants and government officials.

Do the consequences outweigh the duty? Was Manning misguided?

What would you have done in this situation?

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Discussion

Do you think whistleblowers are heroes or traitors?

Snowden?

Manning?

Is it that easy?

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Whistleblower Protection

Whistleblower protection policy varies wildly between countries

Whistleblower Protection Laws in G20 Countries

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