

Written by Dylan Blaylock  
Tuesday, 31 January 2012 14:36

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## [WRBL \(GA\): The American Whistleblower Tour stops at Auburn University](#)



Yesterday, GAP's [American Whistleblower Tour](#) continued with its first stop of 2012, at Auburn University. The stop featured prominent whistleblowers Sherron Watkins (Enron scandal) and Kenneth Kendrick (peanut butter/Salmonella scandal). GAP's Tour is a dynamic campaign aimed at educating the public – particularly America's university students – about the phenomenon and practice of whistleblowing. There are at least eight more stops during the current academic year.

**Key Quote:** *The Government Accountability Project not only represents whistleblowers but it also tries to fix the underlying problems they bring to light.*

*"We work to represent whistleblowers – employees who have reported wrongdoing that they've witnessed in the workplace [such as] fraud, abusive authority, public health and safety violations and environmental devastation," said the Director of the American Whistleblower Tour, Dana Gold.*

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## [The Rick Smith Show: Amanda Hitt on Regulations, Whistleblowing, and the Plan to Keep Food Production in the Dark Ages](#)

GAP's Food Integrity Campaign Director Amanda Hitt spoke with radio host Rick Smith about the lack of accountability in the food industry, due to conflicts of interest in government oversight. She explained the importance of whistleblowers in safeguarding public health, but that many workers are still not adequately protected from retaliation after attempting to expose wrongdoing.

**Key Quote:** *Hitt: "Our system abhors truth-telling because once you pull back that veil, you might find an ugly bride. And that's what's happening. We have to create a culture that venerates whistleblowers."*

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### [AntiWar.com: Meet John Kiriakou](#)

More coverage of the case of John Kiriakou, the whistleblower charged under the Espionage Act by the Obama administration. Kiriakou is accused of 'leaking' classified information to members of the media. This is the current administration's *sixth* criminal prosecution that is leak-related, "[a figure that exceeds the number of such cases in all previous administrations combined](#)"

**Key Quote:** *Calling it the Obama Administration's "record breaking war" on whistleblowers, attorney Jesselyn Radack, herself a FBI whistleblower and now head of a program that advocates for, and represents whistleblowers at the Government Accountability Project, told Antiwar.com that Kiriakou will now be tarred with the traitor image whether he is eventually found guilty or not.*

*"He is being charged under the Espionage Act ... (which is) a World War I-era law that is incredibly heavy-handed and confusing and meant to go after spies," she said. "All we have heard is the government's allegations, we haven't heard his side. Just tagging someone with the espionage label automatically brands him as an enemy of the state. It alienates him from people who would normally be his allies."*

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### [If Mitt Romney Believes in Whistleblowers, What About the WPEA?](#)

In last Thursday's Republican presidential debate, GOP presidential hopeful Mitt Romney said of adversary Newt Gingrich's previous role as an advisor to Freddie Mac, "We should have had a whistleblower, not a horn tooter."

In [this blog post](#), GAP's Shanna Devine looks at the current state of federal whistleblower protections in light of this statement, and wonders if Romney supports the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act – crucial legislation that is needed to strengthen federal whistleblower rights.

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### **Entertainment Weekly: WikiLeaks' Julian Assange to Guest on 'The Simpsons'**

WikiLeaks editor Julian Assange is set to guest star on the 500th episode of "The Simpsons," which will air later this month.

*Dylan Blaylock is Communications Director for the Government Accountability Project, the nation's leading [whistleblower](#) protection and advocacy organization.*