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World Law Group Releases Expanded New Edition of *Global Guide to Whistleblowing Programs*

Washington, D.C./In a time when allegations of corruption, bribery, fraud and money-laundering can tarnish an organization's reputation worldwide within minutes thanks to 24-hour news reporting, social media and other near-instant communications, the importance of executives being the first to know about wrong-doing in their company is more important than ever.

Many organizations have implemented whistleblowing programs to assist them in uncovering these and similar crimes by their employees, contractors, suppliers and other parties. But, as the editors of the second edition of the World Law Group's *Global Guide to Whistleblowing Programs* point out:

"Companies acting in a global environment with subsidiaries and businesses across a large number of jurisdictions face a daunting task: establishing compliance guidelines and whistleblowing reporting schemes that are both effective and consistent across the entire organization and which, at the same time, observe applicable data protection, privacy and labour laws in many countries."

The updated and expanded 2016 edition of the WLG's *Global Guide to Whistleblowing Programs* was released today, and can be downloaded free at www.theworldlawgroup.com.

Since it was originally published in 2012, the *Global Guide to Whistleblowing Programs* has been referenced by thousands of users, including in-house counsel and other executives of multinational companies, professional associations, and educational institutions. The updated and expanded second edition covers 58 countries, as well as a special chapter on the European Union.

"In an environment where adherence to anti-corruption, anti-bribery, fraud, and money-laundering laws is increasingly important, the structuring of whistleblowing programs has become more complex and the subject of regulation in several countries," explain Mark Schreiber of Locke Lord in Boston and Christian Runte of CMS Germany in Munich, the guide's editors and chair and co-chair respectively of the WLG's Global Privacy & Data Protection Group.

"Some laws, like the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX) in the United States, require such reporting mechanisms, while others, such as the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and the Dodd-Frank Act in the U.S., and the United Kingdom's Bribery Act, encourage internal reporting programs of this sort," they point out in their introduction to the guide.

With each chapter provided by a leading law firm in each country, the *Global Guide to Whistleblowing Programs* provides answers to commonly asked questions, including:

- What laws govern whistleblowing programs in each country?
- Must organizations obtain prior approval for such programs from a government authority and, if so, how?

- Are there limits on who can be the subject of a whistleblowing report or who can make one report, e.g., only managers/executives, other employees or suppliers?
- Is anonymous reporting permitted?
- Are there limits on the subject matter of whistleblowing reports?
- Is the consent of employees or unions required to implement a whistleblowing program?
- Are limits to cross-border transfers of data used in a whistleblowing program?

The WLG's *Global Guide to Whistleblowing Programs* also provides a variety of other helpful information, such as links to English translations of related legislation where available, and contact information for government authorities who may need to approve or be notified about the implementation of a whistleblowing program.

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