



Food Integrity Campaign Internship

The Food Integrity Campaign (FIC) is a program of Government Accountability Project, the nation's leading whistleblower protection and advocacy organization. Located in Washington, D.C., Government Accountability Project is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization and public interest law firm with a mission to promote corporate and government accountability by protecting whistleblowers, advancing free speech, and empowering citizen activists.

FIC confronts food integrity issues by facilitating truth-telling within the system. The food supply is increasingly in the hands of agri-business giants, but FIC significantly levels the playing field between industry and consumers by protecting the rights of individuals who witness practices that compromise food integrity.

FIC is a consistent high-profile newsmaker, with its recent and former clients including:

- Kit Foshee was the original so-called “pink slime” whistleblower. Kit came to FIC to blow the whistle on the use of anhydrous ammonia in ground beef production. FIC published his concerns and the media picked up on the story resulting in an avalanche of interest. At the time, nearly 80% of commercial beef patties used the ammoniation process. Kit's whistleblowing opened the American consumer's eyes about what's really for dinner.
- Dr. James Keen worked for the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (MARC), a USDA research facility devoted to increasing livestock productivity, for nearly a quarter century. Dr. Keen fought for years to improve the welfare and treatment of animals at the facility before reaching out to the media. In 2015, the *New York Times* publicized Dr. Keen's disclosures. Public outrage about the animal abuse allegations mounted quickly. The U.S. House Representatives also voiced concerns, ultimately calling for an OIG investigation that named necessary reforms for MARC.
- Phyllis McKelvey is a retired U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) inspector with 44 years of experience in the poultry sector (working for both the government as well as private industry). Before leaving the USDA in 2010, Phyllis witnessed firsthand the damage that the agency's pilot high-speed poultry inspection program creates. She brought food and worker safety concerns to FIC and with FIC's help became a powerful advocate against the dangerous slaughter system.
- Jim Schrier, a veteran federal food safety inspector who faced retaliation from the USDA after blowing the whistle on violations of humane handling regulations at a USDA-regulated Tyson Foods slaughter plant in Iowa. After Jim raised concerns to his supervisor, the supervisor sent Jim to work at another facility 120 miles

away. The USDA then decided to reassign him permanently to a plant in another state. FIC represented Schrier in connection with his whistleblower retaliation case. After negotiations with USDA, Schrier is now working at a slaughterhouse near his home and family.

FIC offers rolling internships to qualified individuals at its Washington, D.C. office. This position is open to undergraduate and graduate students who will take on varying levels of responsibility depending on their background in law, policy and general experience.

Primary job responsibilities for this position include:

- Tracking issues involving food integrity and ag whistleblowing
- Writing blogs for FIC
- Conducting independent research and reporting on findings
- Attending meetings and occasional off-site events
- Performing administrative tasks on an as-needed basis.

Applicants should have strong writing skills, be adept with social networking and new media tools, and comfortable conducting direct outreach and advocacy. Applicants should also be able to prosper in an independent work environment and require minimal supervision.

Students must have a laptop computer to work from for the entire duration of the internship. The exact dates and hours for this internship are negotiable. Please submit a cover letter and resume to Katrina Meyer, Intern Coordinator, at KatrinaM@whistleblower.org with the internship title in the subject line.