

## **Majority of Americans to Factor a Candidate's Commitment to Root Out Corporate Wrongdoing into Voting Decision, According to Labaton Sucharow Survey**

*Respondents Have Firsthand Knowledge of Corporate Wrongdoing and Believe the Government Has Not Done Enough to Stop it*

September 19, 2012

### **Objective:**

Labaton Sucharow's survey of the American public provides important insights into many of the key challenges facing the nation. More than 1,000 Americans were polled on corporate ethics and wrongdoing, the impact of corporate misconduct on the economy, government's role in its repair and the impact on their voting decisions in November.

### **Methods:**

Between August 16-19, 2012, ORC International conducted 1,015 telephone interviews of 511 men and 504 women 18 years of age and older, living in the continental United States.

### **Key Findings:**

- 61% report that a candidate's commitment to rooting out corporate wrongdoing will be a significant factor in their voting decision in November.
- 77% of Americans believe politicians generally favor corporate interests over their constituents' interests.
- 81% do not believe the government has done enough to stop corporate wrongdoing.
- 54% of Americans have personally observed or have first-hand knowledge of wrongdoing in the workplace.
- 18% of Americans believe that their employer values bottom line profits more than ethical conduct.
- 24% of Americans would fear retaliation if they reported wrongdoing in the workplace and 20% believe that any report of wrongdoing would not be appropriately handled by their employer.
- 64% believe that corporate misconduct was a significant factor in bringing about the current economic crisis.
- 63% of Americans believe the government should allocate more dollars to financial regulators and law enforcement to combat corporate wrongdoing.
- 84% of Americans have a positive perception of individuals who report illegal or unethical conduct.
- 83% would "blow the whistle" on corporate wrongdoing given protections and incentives such as those offered by the SEC Whistleblower Program.

**Conclusion:**

The survey also found that Americans continue to lack faith in their employers. "Americans have sounded the alarm," remarked Thomas A. Dubbs, a senior partner at Labaton Sucharow, who has played a lead role in numerous landmark securities litigations. "To meaningfully repair the economy, restore public faith in the markets and hold wrongdoers accountable, we need a strong partnership between individuals, corporate entities and government." "Americans willingness to take a stand for integrity is extremely encouraging," continued Thomas. "Real change and lasting corporate reform requires grassroots action. Corporations that don't take ethics seriously will be making a costly mistake."

[Full report](#)