

This is a powerful story and a must-read cautionary tale for anyone who wonders why fraud is rampant in corporate America, and for all those who naïvely believe it is not.

Patrick Burns
Co-Director of Taxpayers Against Fraud (TAF)
Washington, DC

Jim Holzrichter is a remarkable man and courageous citizen who had the integrity to take action and the sometimes unbelievable fortitude to see it through. Without Jim and others like him, billions of American tax dollars wrongly lost to negligence and unscrupulous fraud would go undetected.

Michael Behn
Lead attorney for the joined private & DoJ qui tam cases
Principal of Behn & Wytzner, Chartered

Jim Holzrichter and his entire family are American heroes. In the end, it was not just about winning a case against a rogue contractor for those of us representing the US government and taxpayer, but about not failing Jim and his deserving family.

Richard Zott
DOD — DCIS Special Agent (retired)
(US Department of Defense — Defense Criminal Investigative Service
of the Inspector General Office)
Lead criminal investigator and Holzrichter handler for secret informant status

In a very protracted battle that went on for years, Jim Holzrichter stood tall when most people would have given up. He carried the personal brunt of the load for an extremely long time and in the big picture made a very big difference. It is an incredible story. The book is a great read.

Major General Charles (Chuck) R. Henry
DOD (retired)
Former Deputy Director and Senior Acquisitions Executive for
Department of Defense — Defense Logistics Agency *and*
Commander, Defense Contract Management Command

A JUST CAUSE

James H. Holzrichter, Sr.

with Patrick A. Horton, Ph.D.

At a time in American history in which personal responsibility, integrity, and the very ideals upon which this country was founded appear all-too-easily sold, abandoned, or neglected into oblivion, this is the inspiring story of one man who could not turn his back on doing what was right, the family who stood by and with him, and the heroes both in government and out who stood up and *showed* up to see him through.

It is a chillingly personal story of the insidious dangers and devastating reach of unbridled and un-American corporate power, corruption, and greed. It is a heroic reflection of attainable possibility and a cautionary tale of potential decline for a nation teetering on the brink between unfinished greatness and its own demise. It is both inspiration and practical guide into finding our way as individuals, families, and a nation.

It is, above all else, a celebration of heroes.

Patrick A. Horton, PhD

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A JUST CAUSE

*Dedicated to my beloved wife, Mary, and to my precious children,
who did not choose to be part of this journey, but who stood
together to endure what no family should ever be challenged to
endure.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	xiii
Preface	xv
1 A Family on the Brink	1
2 A Mirage of Hope	9
3 The Devil's First Minions	17
4 The Handler & the Abyss	35
5 Into the Deep	55
6 An Investigation at Risk	73
7 Desperate Moves	85
8 An Awkward Dance of Foes	101
9 Noble Efforts—Rapid Decline	121
10 Of Depositions, Dispositions, & Boulders Up the Hill	139
11 Changes in Tides	161
12 A Judge Interrupted	175
13 Building a Case in Earnest	191
14 When Worlds Collide	203
15 A Little Matter of Meaning	215

FOREWORD

The general public is largely unaware of the treacherous and uneven path journeyed by whistleblowers. Marked to an exceptional degree by silence, mystery, and misunderstanding, whistleblowers, time and time again, stand up, show up, and suit up for the American people, oftentimes to the detriment of their own personal security, serenity, and even safety. Indeed, the “typical” whistleblower remains an elusive figure, even though they are widely credited with being the driving force behind the federal government’s anti-fraud efforts. The reality is that whistleblowers oftentimes toil on behalf of the public interest well outside of the limelight, buried beneath layers of misdirected clichés, and concealed behind the protections of statutory-seal provisions and attorney-client privileges. Thus, the story of a typical whistleblower appears as a series of disconnected images ranging from the courageous champion of morality, fearless and unbending, to the uncertain insider, reluctantly challenging corporate giants. It is often difficult to reconcile the varied images into a single picture.

Others have certainly tried. In fact, in recent years, there has been a growing fascination about whistleblowers, inspiring prose and film, and begetting “whistleblower experts” of every stripe. The mass media has further fed the popular interest by cloaking or burdening various individuals with the “whistleblower” label. Yet even in this heyday of increased interest, the tale of true whistleblowers seems distorted and diluted, with narratives cobbled together by those who are unburdened by experience.

Unfortunately, the person behind the whistleblower mask often seems to be missing from the story, briefly floating in and out of the timeline. In

turn, for the apologists for corporate fraudsters, “whistleblower” has become an easy shorthand for the faceless disgruntled employee who exacts his revenge by sinking the corporate ship.

On the other side of the ledger, advocates are quick to bestow the “whistleblower” crown on countless champions of justice, oftentimes whitewashing the individual’s inner struggles of doubt and misfortune. So steadfastly have people clung to these extreme views that we still lack an account that fully reveals the inner and outer struggles of the whistleblower and distills them into a fully developed portrait.

By sharing his firsthand, unvarnished experience of struggle and survival, Jim Holzrichter finally provides us with a more complete picture of what it actually means to blow the whistle on dishonest corporations. As his all-too-real story ably shows, whistleblowing is not an event, but a process fraught with obstacles large and small. This reality should be fully understood and appreciated, especially by those who are contemplating blowing the whistle on corporate fraud.

Admittedly, not all whistleblowers travel the same path; however, Holzrichter’s long, hard-fought odyssey exposes the full gamut of the whistleblowing experience. Indeed, the proverbial silver lining is that his personal story maps out the landscape, exposes the potential pitfalls, and reveals the terrain, permitting others to fully understand the treacherous personal and professional journey that awaits would-be whistleblowers even as it illustrates the self-survival importance of our supporting and protecting them as a nation.

*Joseph E. B. “Jeb” White, Esq.
Former President & C.E.O.
Taxpayers Against Fraud*

much that can lay waiting for us. Hope is one of them.

I leave you with the question my father asked that served as my compass and that so speaks to our times now:

When is it ever wrong to do the right thing?

To that, I add, *When is it ever right not to?*

Bless you and thank you again for sharing a bit of this journey. May you be well and travel well on your own.