

Access to Knowledge and the Ethics of Reporting Organizational Wrongdoings

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Abstract

The main aim of the panel is to discuss what reasons a member of an organization has (or could have) to report organizational wrongdoings – whether one must have knowledge deriving from a direct involvement in committing a wrongdoing, or it is enough to 'stumble' upon facts of the matter about that wrongdoing. This is a particular complex issue when it comes to public officers who might have access to a great quantity of data because of the position they occupy within a public institution. There might be cases where, while not involved in anything illegal or morally problematic, they could access relevant information about a grave wrongdoing.

What ought they, morally speaking, to do? And if they reported what they know, could we consider their action as an instance of whistleblowing and, so, protect them as whistleblowers?

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