



Tips and Trends from ICJE

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Date Thu 2/27/2025 2:03 PM
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Monthly News & Updates

February 2025



"Your Test Results Are In"

A few years ago, I suffered an acute pancreatitis attack just before our church service, which left me lying in the narthex, writhing in unbearable pain. What made the pain worse

was that the Pastor was out of town and had asked me to deliver the message that Sunday. I was literally walking into the sanctuary when the attack hit.

I thought I had prepared a great message, but clearly, the Lord had other plans. The ambulance took me away, and after a week in the hospital, I was discharged with the doctors explaining that they had no idea why the attack occurred, so they ordered more tests.

Not long after, I received an email from the infamous "MyChart" account, notifying me that my test results were available. My greatest fear was that I had pancreatic cancer, as anyone familiar with this type of cancer knows that it's usually accompanied by the chilling diagnosis: "you don't have much more time."

I logged in and noticed a standard warning that my personal physician had not reviewed the results. But that didn't stop me—after all, I'm an "Internet MD."

As I read through the detailed results, one sentence shook me to my core. A doctor at the hospital had reviewed the results and added a note to my physician, suggesting that a particular "marker" could be indicative of pancreatic cancer. I froze as I read that line over and over, unable to move for the rest of the afternoon, until I received a call that evening from my physician.

He said simply, "Jim, everything looks good; we'll just need to watch your diet and keep an eye on things." Stunned, I paused and asked, "But there was a note about a marker indicating the possibility of cancer?" He replied, emotionless, "Oh, that was a misinterpretation of a certain test. You don't have any cancer cells."

He had no idea that I had already diagnosed myself, given myself two months to live, and was trying to figure out what to do with my remaining time on Earth. It was a surreal moment, but I am clearly blessed to be free of any terminal disease.

You might be wondering: what does this have to do with law enforcement, security, values, and the training and education provided by the ICJE? Well, I thought about my experience with cancer tests as I listened to a series of podcasts about FBI whistleblowers while researching topic ideas for this month's newsletter.

One after another, individuals with legitimate concerns about the integrity of investigations or those in management positions within the FBI shared their stories, all of which had a common "marker." Although many of these cases were separated by years or distance, the path of retribution was eerily similar.

It was as though each whistleblower represented a different lymph node within the FBI's larger body, alerting society that a biopsy had confirmed cancer within the Bureau at the management levels. We just didn't get the test results in time, or perhaps we were too entrenched in our personal feelings to recognize the message.

As I dug deeper into the allegations involving FBI Agent Steve Friend, Analyst Marcus Allen, SA Garret O'Boyle, SSA Zach Schoffstall, Kyle Seraphin, and many others, it became clear that there are enough "markers" to indicate that the infection isn't isolated to certain individuals but has spread throughout management. SSA Schoffstall described the current crisis as a lack of integrity within the management ranks, with a culture of corruption infecting every level of leadership.

I don't want to believe it could be that bad, but I think the patient (the FBI) requires treatment—radical measures to address generational leadership corruption that has been hidden from public view. I wasn't a fan of the Bogino pick, until I listened to Zach Schoffstall's interview today. He described what happened to him and two other agents when they refused to sign an affidavit supporting a search warrant request they knew to be inaccurate.

The cancer has clearly infected most—though not all—of the management. Only time will tell if the Bureau can restore its reputation for integrity, regardless of political affiliation. Outsiders are necessary for this process. We'll see if the current Director and Assistant Director can cure the patient, or if they too will be corrupted by forces uninterested in the Bureau's long-term health.

The test results are in, and time will tell if the patient recovers.

Note: I use the above cancer/patient metaphor with this disclaimer: Nothing in my metaphor can be compared to the physical and emotional pain of actual medical conditions and I have the utmost empathy for those dealing with medical challenges. My family has lost too many to cancer, but I hope you understand my comparison is for illustration purposes.

**Also, for full transparency my career included a time in which I had to provide an affidavit outlining allegations of wrongdoing in the Bureau when I was a Special Agent, and detailing the resulting threats and fallout I received. So, I may be biased in my evaluation of the current whistleblowers, but if you really dig into the current situations, looking past the sound bites, I think you will have similar feelings that change is needed.*

Jim Rechel
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Please feel free to email comments or suggestions anytime!

Thanks, Jim

"The time is always right to do what is right." - *M.L. King Jr.*

"I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man." - *Geo. Washington.*

Society News

Ethical Erosion Is Everywhere!

As I opined about the FBI Management issues above, I was reminded that the issues regarding ethical decision making impacts every aspect of our lives, and every profession. And we were certainly reminded of that this month with the allegations regarding the total collapse of the Hanceville, Alabama Police Department.

My personal opinion is that the erosion of values is a fundamental issue that needs to be addressed through the public demanding more of our leaders,...**and more importantly, demanding more of ourselves.** This month's selection of resources includes articles from various industries/professions, but whose ethical commentaries are applicable to all of us.



Ethical Erosion And The Deafening Silence Of America's Healthcare 'Leaders'

American healthcare leadership is in crisis. Martin Luther King Jr's leadership provides some clues on a way forward.

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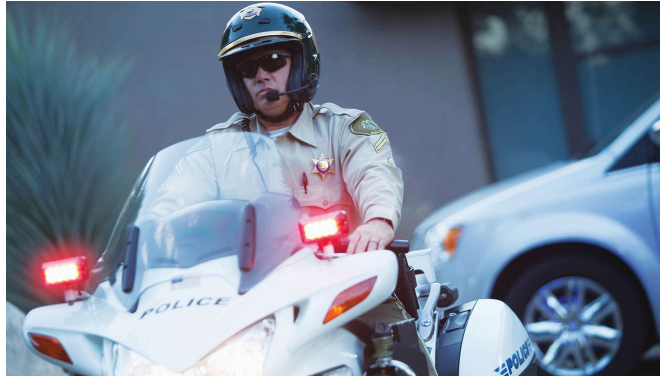


'Rampant culture of corruption' led to Hanceville PD operating as...

A Cullman County grand jury has determined the Hanceville Police Department has

been operating as a criminal enterprise and recommended disbanding the...

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Ethical dilemmas in policing

Sometimes the mere mention of the topic of ethics is enough to elicit eyerolling and yawning among seasoned law enforcement officers. For many, it was a boring four-hour block of [...]

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Prosecutor had family ties to producer of Hulu documentary on the Crumbleys: 'It's icky'

The executive producer of a 2024 Hulu documentary about the Oxford High School shooter's parents had family ties to Chief Assistant Prosecutor David Williams.

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Guidance on Ethics - "Foundation on the Lord"

- from Psalms 1: 1-6

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his **delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.**

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; .

Technology

Overcoming Communications Challenges: A Hurricane Helene Success - Domestic Preparedness

As part of the Texas Division of Emergency Management's Hurricane Helene Incident Support Task Force, Emergency Management Coordinator Jarod Rosson experienced firsthand what it is like to respond to a disaster when all ground-based forms of communication are offline.

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13 Steps For Recognizing PSY-OPS

I knew Psy-Ops played a significant role in modern warfare, but I didn't fully grasp the scope of it until tonight. After hearing Chase's perspective and diving into my

own research, I'm looking at these drone sightings from an entirely new angle.

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"I Want to be a Better"... at an Ethical Life



Wisdom Of A Third Grade DROPOUT : Courtesy Of Goalcast

Rick Rigsby delivers a powerful speech on how his father's teachings have guided him through the most troubling times of his life.

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Crime



DOJ confirms arrested US Army soldier is linked to AT&T and Verizon hacks | TechCrunch Jan 2025

The alleged hacker claimed to have access to huge amounts of call records, including VP Kamala Harris and President Trump.

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Dealing With Political Corruption - *Opinion from Your Newsletter Editor*

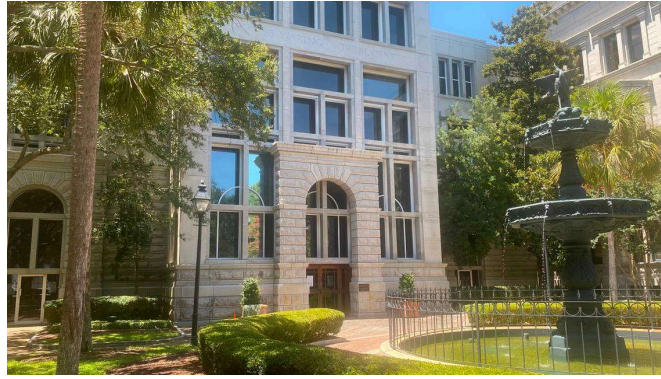
As local public corruption cases are pursued by the FBI and respective US Attorneys across the United States, it will be interesting to see how far prosecution of national politicians go. Local politicians generally involve small dollars compared to their federal counterparts.

Recently, a local politician in Cincinnati was convicted for directing developers to make a contribution to his PAC. His defense was "everybody does this". He is probably right.

I am directly aware of a US Senator who made the same "suggestion" to a family member, saying that if he made a contribution to his political PAC, the Senator would "see what he could do" to resolve an issue my family member was having with trying to get business with the Federal government.

My family member left disgusted, never made any payments to any PAC, and never went any further with the project. He lost all faith that politicians have any integrity, as he watched this Senator become a multi-millionaire over time, on a government salary.

But criminal prosecution is not the answer (personal opinion) as it mires law enforcement in political frays which are better left to voters. But for type of accountability to work, and to root out corruption, voters have to care, have to be educated, and the media has to be as objective as possible in pursuing corruption, regardless of the R or D or I behind a politician's name.



North Charleston council members, others charged in money laundering, bribery schemes

Eight people including three North Charleston City Council members are charged with federal crimes after an FBI corruption investigation.

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2025- ICJE Training and Education



Training Schedule

For more information on the 2025 schedule, please visit our website by clicking on "Read More":

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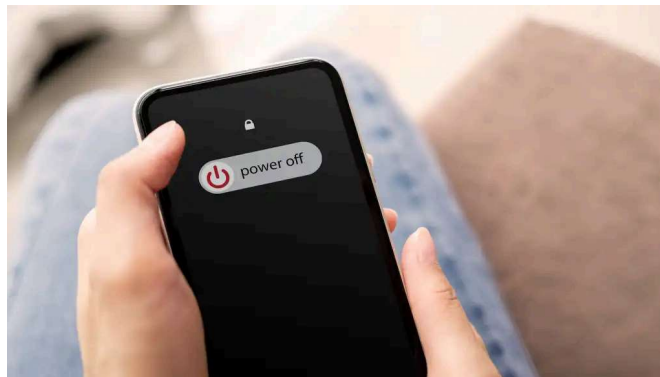


The inaugural ACCS ACTIVATE career readiness program for correctional officers holds its first graduation - Central Inc!

The first class in a new career readiness program at ACCS for Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) correctional officers graduated.

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One More Thing



How often should you turn off your phone? Here's what the NSA says

How often should you turn off your phone completely? Security experts have answered this question.

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