

Fixing irregularities, the forensic way

Case study



A top-down view of various fresh ingredients. At the top is a large piece of salmon with a sprig of rosemary. To the left is a piece of raw beef. In the center is a white bowl containing rolled oats with a smaller white bowl of yellow lentils on top. Below the oat bowl are two brown eggs. To the right is a whole onion and some green herbs. At the bottom left is a halved avocado. At the bottom center is a white bowl of dark red kidney beans. At the bottom left corner is a small wooden bowl of white beans.

“What made the engagement complex was the absence of clear indicators or leads that could be pursued.”

Senior executive of a global consumer products company

The India Firm successfully carried out a very complex investigation on irregularities involving a senior C-Suite executive.

A US-based listed global consumer products company engaged Grant Thornton to handle a complex and sensitive investigation into allegations against a senior C-Suite executive and some employees in the management team. The allegations were made by a whistle-blower.

Given the seniority of the executive, the investigation process had to be handled carefully with no room for any leaks associated with data, documents and interviews. Said Vidya Rajarao, Forensic Advisor, “In a nutshell, the ask from the client was to conduct the investigation discreetly and in strict conformity with legal requirements.”

Said the client on the condition of anonymity, “What made the engagement complex was the absence of clear indicators or leads that could be pursued. Grant Thornton’s team, led by the head of the concerned practice, completed the review with undivided attention, meeting the tight deadline set by us.”

Considering the investigation was complex and time-sensitive, Grant Thornton put together a team of experts, led by the forensics partner, to oversee the engagement on a daily basis. Further, resources from Grant Thornton US were mobilised to assist in tracing certain conflicts and relationships of the C-Suite executive.

Based on review of data, extensive interviews, field searches and market intelligence procedures, we were able to substantiate the allegations against the C-Suite executive in question. Our report and findings were presented to the company’s legal counsel in India and in global headquarters. Based on our report, the senior C-Suite member and other employees were terminated, vendor contracts were cancelled and new protocols were instituted to plug internal control gaps and prevent recurrence.

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Vidya Rajarao
Forensic Advisor



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