



CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

Monitors the social conscience and performance of companies in order to provide safe and honest products & services. It also is responsible for educating members on issues like truth in lending, truth in advertising, and consumer fraud. Here are some helpful resources for your investigation.

TOOLS FOR MONITORING COMPANIES

Make sure you gather your information from dependable sources. These include: government websites, public filings, and reputable news sources. Remember, when doing research, always check the source and the date!

► FINANCIAL FILINGS

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

Companies that are traded on one of the U.S. stock exchanges are required to disclose information on a regular basis to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). You can find these documents on a publicly traded company's website or directly from the SEC. Start with the Form 10-K (Annual Report) and the DEF 14A (Proxy Statement). The 10-K covers a wide variety of information on the operation of the firm, its properties, any pending or potential legal proceedings, and a wealth of financial information. The DEF 14A includes, among other things: information on directors, director compensation, executive compensation, termination benefits (aka Golden Parachutes), and "perks".

www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/companysearch.html

► HEALTH AND SAFETY

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Here you can search for violations by individual employers. You can also search for violations by SIC code, background on regulations, statistics and trends, and more.

<https://www.osha.gov/pls/imis/establishment.html>

U.S. Department of Labor

Search employer filed LM-10 forms, which require companies to report, among other things, arrangements (and payments made under these arrangements) with anti-union consultants.

<https://olms.dol-esa.gov/Disclosure/OrderSR.jsp?ReportId=LM10>

▶ COURT RECORDS

National Center for State Courts

Links to all state courts in the United States. Some state courts will have online access to court records.

<http://www.ncsc.org/>

PACER

Index of federal court cases, including full-text documents in some jurisdictions. Requires a subscription and charges per page download.

<http://www.pacer.gov>

▶ REGULATORY REGULATION AND DATA

U.S. EPA Facilities Search

Search for environmental violations and fines.

<https://echo.epa.gov/facilities/facility-search>

Good Jobs First Violation Tracker

Discover which corporations are the biggest regulatory violators throughout the United States.

<http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/violation-tracker>

Corporate Rap Sheets

Dossiers summarizing the most significant crimes, violations and other questionable activities of the world's largest and most controversial companies.

<http://corp-research.org/corporaterapsheets>

▶ PUBLIC SUBSIDIES

Good Jobs First Subsidy Tracker

Search by company to uncover what public subsidies a company has received. Also includes best practices, explanations, and subsidy abuse and accountability.

<http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/subsidy-tracker>

Trade Adjustment Assistance Search

Search by company to see if they have opened a case and/or received federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) dollars for a group of workers who have lost or may lose their jobs as a result of trade.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/tradeact/petitioners/petitions>

▶ CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND LOBBYING

Open Secrets (Center for Responsive Politics)

Searchable databases of federal campaign contributions, lobbying data and analysis.

<http://www.opensecrets.org>

National Institute of Money in State Politics

State-level data, as well as links to state campaign disclosure offices.

<http://www.followthemoney.org>

► **INTERNATIONAL LABOR RESOURCES**

IndustriALL

Global union federation, representing more than 50 million members in more than 140 countries, working across the supply chains in mining, energy and manufacturing sectors at the global level. Provides information about labor disputes and campaigns around the world.

<http://www.industrial-union.org/>

International Labour Organization

Information about global labor standards, including the conventions on the right to organize, child labor, minimum wage, and other basic conditions ratified by many nations around the world.

<http://www.ilo.org>

Transparency International

Information on government and corporate corruption by country, including a ranking of countries based on the level of corruption.

<http://www.transparency.org>

TOOLS FOR EDUCATING MEMBERS ON FRAUD, SCAMS, AND HOAXES

► **RESOURCES**

Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Consumer Protection

Explore the tabs at the top. There are sections on: money and credit, homes and mortgages, health and fitness, jobs & making money, privacy, identity and online security, blogs, video, and media. You can also: files a consumer complaint, register for Do Not Call, report identity Theft, get your free (actually free!) annual credit report, and more.

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/>

FBI Consumer Fraud Schemes

A resource for some of the most common scams that the FBI encounters, as well as tips to help prevent you from being victimized.

<https://www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety/common-fraud-schemes>