

Anti-corruption lawyers in high demand at Houston companies

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[14 photos](#)

Home of the Day

The U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 (FCPA) and the U.K. Bribery Act of 2010 are perhaps some of the most sweeping anti-corruption legislation currently known to man. In short, both stipulate that parent companies are liable for the unscrupulous dealings of subsidiaries and even individual contractors at home and in other countries.



As a result, Houston's increasingly international companies and law firms are shoring up their supply of lawyers with expertise in compliance with FCPA and Bribery Act regulations.

"Houston is at the epicenter of the FCPA enforcement world," said [Tom Fox](#), a lawyer that specializes in helping Houston companies develop their FCPA compliance programs.

Fox added that Houston's FCPA enforcement actions outnumber that of any other city in the world because of the energy industry.

For lawyers like Fox, business is booming.

"Lawyers with compliance experience, have been and remain in high demand – both at law firms and in-house," said [Lee Allbritton](#), founding partner of Amicus Search Group, a recruiting firm that focuses on lawyers.

Allbritton said he's currently placing two such lawyers.

One recent case in Houston came to a close in July when former [Noble Corp.](#) (NYSE: NE) [executives avoided fines](#) from the Securities and Exchange Commission following allegations that the execs had bribed Nigerian officials to secure permits for oil rigs. Fox said just look at any energy company and they've been subject to FCPA enforcement actions or investigations.

[Phillip Hilder](#), founding partner of Hilder Associates PC, said the onus is increasingly on companies to self-report compliance issues.

| *Suzanne Edwards covers money and law for the Houston Business Journal.*