

Tristan Leavitt is the President of Empower Oversight, a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization dedicated to strengthening public integrity through research, education, and the help of whistleblowers.

Mr. Leavitt began his investigative career working on the Senate Judiciary Committee staff of Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), where he helped whistleblowers expose schemes like Operation Fast and Furious, the gunwalking scandal that armed the murderers of a U.S. Border Patrol Agent. He also served as Senator Grassley's chief whistleblower policy advisor, leading the introduction of the first Senate resolutions recognizing National Whistleblower Appreciation Day and the establishment of the Senate Whistleblower Protection Caucus.

In 2015 Mr. Leavitt joined the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee staff of Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah). There he oversaw the Committee's whistleblower intake hotline, working with dozens of whistleblowers on Committee investigations. As the Committee's whistleblower policy expert he also helped usher several whistleblower protections into law, including negotiating the passage of the FBI Whistleblower Protection Act of 2016.

In 2017 Mr. Leavitt was appointed as Principal Deputy Special Counsel at the Office of Special Counsel, where he helped reform OSC's whistleblower disclosure program and directed a reorganization of OSC's intake and investigative process. He also served as Acting Special Counsel in the fall of 2017. In late 2018 Leavitt was appointed as the General Counsel of the Merit Systems Protection Board, and for three years served as the acting head of that agency. In 2022 the U.S. Senate confirmed him with bipartisan support as a Member of the three-person Board. During his one-year term ruling on employee appeals, he helped establish significant precedent in the area of Title 5 whistleblower law.

A graduate of Brigham Young University and Georgetown University Law Center, Mr. Leavitt and his wife Brittany are raising their five children in Charleston, West Virginia.