

Beth Hanken
Midwest Ventures, Inc.

Ms. Hanken is the president of Midwest Ventures Inc., an Iowa-based meat exporting company. After bidding for a contract to supply U.S. troops in Iraq with food, Ms. Hanken lost business and experienced retaliation for alerting the military to fraudulent contracting practices by PWC, a large, Kuwaiti company that has the primary food supply contract for U.S. troops in Iraq.

Specifically, Ms. Hanken complained to the Department of Defense that she was not allowed to do business in Iraq because she refused to pay PWC what amounted to a bribe that would have been charged to the taxpayers. Hanken filed a federal lawsuit in June 2006 alleging that PWC colluded with others “to overcharge the U.S. government by millions of dollars.” Ms. Hanken will testify about the fraudulent practices she witnessed and the government’s failure to investigate her allegations.