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The courage to be a compliance leader

By Kristy Grant-Hart

The first records of the word “courage” come from the thirteenth century. The word is derived from the Old French word “corage,” which is related to “couer,” meaning “heart.”^[1] Anyone who has ever been a compliance officer knows the necessity of both heart and courage. Courage in the compliance profession takes many forms. These include:

Courage to deliver bad news

No one likes to deliver bad news, but frequently, we must. Sometimes we must tell the board and C-suite of a speak-up complaint rife with devastating allegations. Other times, we must tell someone they’ve been found culpable of misconduct, so their job has been terminated.

A popular cliché warns not to shoot the messenger. We are often required to be the bearer of bad tidings. Nevertheless, we must have the courage to do so.

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