

# Helen C. Sharkey

“Your story was riveting. You delivered it perfectly. Looking forward to hearing it again!”

—Sherron Watkins,  
THE ENRON  
WHISTLEBLOWER

“It was a powerful experience listening to your story. Thanks for sharing and for all that it took for you to reach the point where you could stand before an audience and speak.”

—Professor Stephen  
Arbogast, University  
of Houston

“Outstanding speaker. Real-world experience and consequences—brave lady.”

“Compelling, amazing story, eye-opening and a little scary.”

“Very powerful presentation. I felt privileged to hear her story. Thanks for giving us this opportunity.”

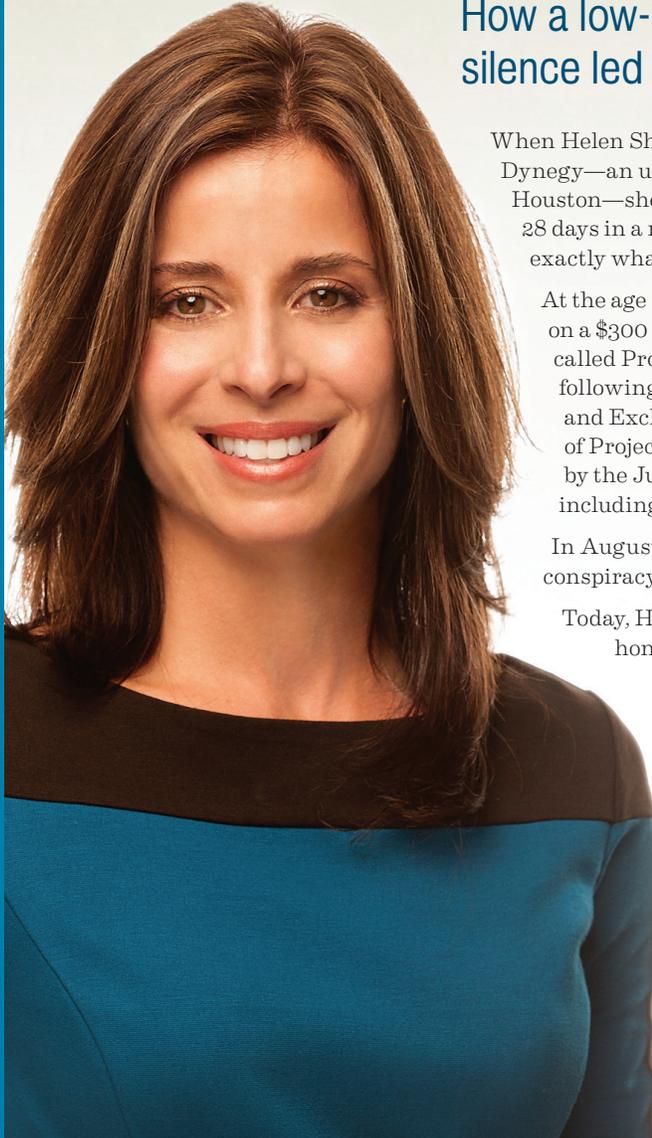
“Very inspiring and chilling... appreciate the heads up on how careful we need to be.”

“Truly enjoyed this presentation, extremely interesting and moving. I have never been to any discussion, much less one at lunch, where no one spoke, stirred or left. Truly excellent.”

Audience members,  
Houston TSCPA  
CFO/Controller's  
Conference

## “What Happened to Me Could Happen to Anyone”

### How a low-level employee's silence led to a prison sentence



When Helen Sharkey was hired as an accountant in 1996 by Dynegy—an up-and-coming energy trading company in Houston—she had no idea the job would ultimately lead to 28 days in a maximum-security federal prison. But that's exactly what happened.

At the age of 28, Helen was the lowest-level employee on a \$300 million structured finance transaction team called Project Alpha. Little did she know, Dynegy was following in the footsteps of Enron. Soon, the Securities and Exchange Commission launched an investigation of Project Alpha, followed by criminal charges brought by the Justice Department against three employees, including Helen.

In August 2003, Helen pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit securities fraud.

Today, Helen speaks about her experiences with brutal honesty and not a trace of self-pity. She talks about her excitement when she landed her “dream job” at Dynegy, only to be followed by dismay when she began to doubt the ethics of what they were doing and, ultimately, her complete loss of faith in the company. She details her gut-wrenching fear when she realized that the Justice Department was targeting her, her struggle with the decision to plead guilty, the shame of being branded a felon and her time behind bars. She talks about her mistakes frankly, yet also delivers a message of hope: even when things are at their darkest, never lose sight of the light at the end. Follow it and believe.

### Speaking Topics

- Corporate ethics and accountability
- Whistleblower responsibilities
- What NOT to do when faced with an ethical dilemma

MORE INFORMATION AT [HELENSHARKEY.INFO](http://HELENSHARKEY.INFO)