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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

DOUG JONES, CRM

Our joint Dallas/Fort Worth luncheon at the Diamond Club of the Ballpark in Arlington was great fun. I always enjoy an opportunity to have our two chapters come together to celebrate. And as always, one of the best results of those events is the raising of funds for charity. But there are other benefits to collaboration. There are so many resources in the metroplex among records and information professionals, and it just makes sense to share and team.



Doug Jones, CRM

One of the research papers I wrote during graduate school was about the collaborative friendship of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison and how their efforts helped shape the ideological foundation of our country. This occurred not as an accident of two men with similar ideals working independent of one another, but strikingly, two men with often very diverse viewpoints working respectfully together. This friendship, and the sometimes-polar political thought it represented, served in microcosm as a model for our bipartisan national political infrastructure. It also is a great example for us in many other areas of our personal and professional lives.

They say that differences among us should be seen as opportunities not for conflict but for growth. While it is hard to practice, I think it is true. A little competition is healthy, but we're so "to the death" and unforgiving in much of what we do. Get out on any area freeway and you'll quickly see what I mean. Try to make holiday plans with your extended family, if you're still speaking to all of your extended family. Try getting through to the hardheaded executives that someone saw fit to put in charge of your organization. It tries the patience, and ultimately it seems easier just to wall yourself off and retreat into a world of countermeasures and passive aggression.

The friendship of Madison and Jefferson taught us that you can work with people with whom you disagree. Moreover, you can work together and achieve profound goals, creating an open environment where others can bring their talents and beliefs to realize and refine common objectives. You can grow patience, exercise respect, and become a better and more effective person, in the end. And contrary to what some may require, you need not sacrifice your beliefs and convictions to contribute. Those are vital to expanding the vision and opportunities of both those in your circle of influence and those who will come along after we're gone.

There's a lot happening in the RIM world. Be in it.



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FORT WORTH ARMA CHAPTER TO HOST MOCK TRIAL



Your Fort Worth ARMA Chapter will be hosting a mock trial in March 2008. Please make plans to attend this special event, which will make you consider and reconsider just how sound your organization's records and information management program is. The mock trial is a good reality check to see just how a records and information management program (yours?) would fare in court.

What is the Mock Trial?

Records and other recorded information play an important role in litigation, and this role looms ever larger as litigation over complex matters becomes ever more common. Many cases are decided on the basis of documents uncovered during discovery, and parties are increasingly being sanctioned for failure to produce documents during discovery. Records retention schedules and records management practices are increasingly coming under scrutiny, and parties commonly seek sanctions due to supposed failings in these areas.

This mock trial is intended to introduce attendees to the trial process, and information management's role in it, particularly when records management goes awry. Attendees will get a taste of how attorneys attack records retention, spoliation and other records management-related issues at trial, how witnesses respond, and how their own attorneys defend against that attack. Attendance will be both entertaining and instructive, as you see witnesses challenged over their organizations' records management practices, and lawyers attempting to put spin on the facts presented. There is no script, nor is the outcome predetermined. We will be doing it in real time and spontaneously, just like a real hearing. You should come away with a greater understanding of how records management relates to discovery and trial, and of the kinds of records and information management issues that may pose problems during litigation.

Who is John Montaña?

John Montaña is a principal if the Pelli Group, formerly Cunningham and Montaña, Inc., a records and information management consulting firm based in Reston, Virginia. In this capacity he advises corporations, law firms and non-profit organizations on records and

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Attendees will get a taste of how attorneys attack records retention...how witnesses respond...how your own attorneys defend against the attack

SAVE THE DATE!

Be sure to mark your calendar for **January 9, 2008**. **Tad Howington, CRM, FAI** will present his program '**The Good, The Bad, and The Downright Ugly: Electronic Records Management**'. This session will cover the basic concepts of designing, developing and conducting a compliance audit of your organization's electronic records program. A logical step by step methodology built upon practical experience will be presented. The attendees will come away with the tools necessary to develop their own compliance audit plan, from initial conceptual design and implementation to the final report and corrective action plan. The meeting will be at **Joe T. Garcia's**, from 11:30 to 1:00. The meal will be Mexican Dinner. **Fort Worth ARMA Chapter Members pay \$15.00 for lunch, non-members pay \$20**. Be sure to make your reservations by **Friday, January 4** by calling the **Reservation HOTLINE: 817-740-5650**. We now have two ways to pay: either online with Paypal at Monthly Meeting tab at www.armaftworth.org or at the door. Either way, please be sure to make your reservation through the Reservation HOTLINE.



MOCK TRIAL

(Continued from page 2)

information management. His work has included analysis and advice on a wide variety of records and information management issues, including records retention scheduling, advice on the legality of various information storage media, regulatory compliance, litigation and discovery, and other matters likely to impact information management considerations; as well as analysis, critique and modification of practices, policies and procedures, and retention schedules developed by others and start-to-finish development of records retention schedules, records management policies and procedures. He is widely recognized as one of the foremost records management experts in the country.



Mr. Montaña has published three books on records management issues, as well as dozens of articles for magazines and professional journals, and is an active seminar speaker on records management topics.

He holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Denver.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild wild night,

The year is dying in the night.

- Alfred, Lord Tennyson

In Rome, Caesar officially proclaimed January 1 as New Year's Day. The Romans proceeded to ignore him. Throughout history, the New Year was celebrated at many different times: the Egyptians and Persians celebrated on the vernal equinox in March; the Athenians rang in their new year at the winter solstice and then under the reign of Perciles, celebrated the New Year on June 21, the summer solstice.

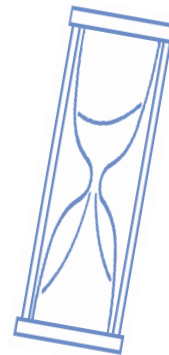
The rivalry between the January 1 date and the March 25 date for New Year's continued through the 18th century. England and her colonies celebrated the New Year during the old March date through 1753. Due to the close proximity of Christmas and the January New Year's date, people had an excuse to party regardless of what Church edict dictated. This is still with us, in the guise of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. Janus, the father of the New Year, is also still with us. Janus was one of many gods worshipped throughout the ancient world. Although by classical times, the name Jupiter replaced Janus, which is also the root of the word 'January'.

Janus was a two-faced god, frequently used to symbolize change and transitions such as the progression of past to future, of one condition to another, of one vision to another, the growing up of young people, and of one universe to another. Hence, Janus was worshipped at the beginnings of the harvest and planting times, as well as marriages, births and other beginnings. He was representative of the middle ground between barbarity and civilization, rural country and urban cities, and youth and adulthood. Janus looks back through time and forward through time, much like we do at this time of reflection and hope.

New Year's is about new beginnings, Father Time gives way to a Baby New Year, full of promise and hope. The days gradually grow longer, providing hope that the days will continue to grow longer and the sun is indeed coming back, ensuring a brighter future for all. January is the portal through which the world seems to recreate itself. In spite of its darkness, January, like Father Time, is the year's morning.

What will you accomplish this New Year, this new beginning? Happy New Year!

-The Dance of Time: the Origins of the Calendar Michael Judge



**Let him who
would enjoy a
good future
waste none of
his present.**

**Roger Babson,
American Educator
(1875 - 1967)**

CHAPTER FINANCIAL REPORT

We raised **\$176.00 for L.I.F.T.** at our December joint meeting with the Dallas ARMA Chapter. A big 'Thank You' to all who attended and participated in the fun.



Special thanks to those who provided items for the silent auction:

**Molly McCombs,
Nancy McNeil, CRM,
Debbie Wilson,
Sharlene Rochester
Linda Perry
Pier 1**

Congratulations to **Judy Pepper** for winning the **Christmas Stocking** raffle prize!

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS



- **January 9:**
Fort Worth ARMA Chapter Meeting
Time: 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Location: Joe T. Garcia's
Speaker: Tad Howington, CRM, FAI
Topic: Risk Management and Privacy
- **January 30:**
Chapter Social Event—Texas Brahma Hockey Game
Time: 7:05 PM
Location: NYTEX Sports Center in North Richland Hills
Tickets \$14.00 each
Information: info@armaftworth.org
- **February 13:**
Fort Worth ARMA Chapter Meeting
Time: 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Topic: Leadership Skills
- **March 12:**
Mock Trial with John Montana
Details forthcoming

