

Just in case it matters to you:

- “EFFECTIVE DECISION MAKING requires learning from the past to have a better impact on the future.” When decision-processes are too narrow and people don’t take the time to review historical information for guidance, they end up failing to “look far enough ahead to envision potential consequences of their decisions... Sound decisions rely on **Resilience** – which stems from four keys: **Resourcefulness** when resources are not available; **Persistence** long enough to see the whole in the parts; **Recovery** ability to bounce back after the inevitable mistakes; and **Generativity**, learning from those mistakes... Since even the smallest decisions can have a huge impact on your business, your relationships and your life, the key is to use the past to anticipate the future and guide your action.”
[LEGAL MANAGEMENT – Dec 08]
- DESPITE THE PUBLIC CLAMOR FOR PUNISHMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BLAME FOR THE SUBPRIME MESS, “our now-frail banking system effectively means banks that formerly might have been a target of indictment will have virtually no criminal exposure in the subprime investigative area – benefiting from recent court and congressional pressure to provide more protection for the attorney-client privilege and attorney’s work product...along with Dep’t of Justice unwillingness to risk another corporate indictment that might be proven wrong or a verdict that triggers an irreversible collapse, as happened with the Arthur Andersen case fiasco... Other than periodic ‘roundups’ of those involved in the processing of ‘liars loans,’ the number of subprime investigations that will ripen into actual prosecutions will likely disappoint the public. As with stock option backdating, the enormous initial interest in the subprime crisis will winnow to the point where a handful of the highest-level executives are portrayed in an apparent self-dealing moment while making alleged false statements by an errant email or an equivalent ‘smoking gun’ document.” And the beat goes on...
[FINANCIAL SERVICES DAILY – Dec 12, 08]
- CORPORATION SCAM CAUTION: Watch out for official-sounding notices from ‘Corporate Compliance Center’ or the ‘Annual Review Board’ which appear to be government actions – and to which most businesses routinely comply for information requests (corporate Minutes and filings) and a check. However, *these are scams*, and not from government agencies. All required state forms are free and meeting minutes should always be kept confidential.
[SIEFF LAW CORP BULLETIN – Jan 09]
- THE ‘DIGITAL UNIVERSE’ IS EXPECTED TO REACH 1.8 ZETTABYTES (whatever that means) within two years, “with the explosion of digital cameras, televisions, surveillance, sensor-based tools such as GPS, data centers supporting cloud computing, and social networks. The bottom line: Our individual *digital shadow* – our names in financial records & mailing lists, web surfing histories, images taken by public area security cameras, logs of user activities on social networking sites, etc. – is much larger than the digital information that we actively create about ourselves. This trail of information is the foundation of an emerging field called ‘collective intelligence.’ Proponents argue that the plethora of data, combined with powerful ware-housing, content networking, business intelligence, storage, search, and analytics programs, offers powerful benefits... In the wrong hands, however, the combinations of seemingly innocuous digital data could potentially facilitate identity theft. Indeed, protecting individuals’ reputations and personal safety...are the most prominent data privacy concerns.” Increasing wariness about the control of *digital shadow* is growing and not unwarranted.
[LAWTECHNOLOGYNEWS.COM – Jan 09]
- SCIENTISTS ARE WARNING THAT EARTH IS HEADED FOR A MAJOR SOLAR STORM. The sun’s weather cycle is roughly every 11 years when sunspot activity known as ‘solar flares’ erupt. “Sunspots are actually massive storms that hurl huge quantities of electromagnetic particles into space and bombard nearby planets.” *Previous eruptions have melted transformers, sparked multiple fires, and knocked out the entire electrical grid of Quebec.* The Nat’l Academy of Sciences advises that we may be due for a “once-in-a-century solar storm...which could knock out power to hundreds of millions of people... disrupt modern communications systems...cause blackouts and computer shutdowns for as many as 130M Americans...leading to a catastrophic failure of commercial and government infrastructure...and plunge the world into chaos.”
[THE WEEK – Jan 23, 09]
- THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK: “**Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could.**” - Ralph Waldo Emerson
“Millionaires in the U.S. lost an average of 30% of their assets in 2008, and one-fifth of them lost more than 40%” according to a Spectrem Group survey.