

A Fraud Victim Speaks Out

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Winner of 2010

Ethan Award



What We Do

Videoconferencing



Presentation and Multimedia Technologies



Distance Learning



Telemedicine









"The Day My Business Almost Died"

- Company Growth
 - Revenue from \$1 to over \$6 million (1998-2002)
- Replaced Clerical Support
 - Hired Professional Accountant (May 2002)
- Personal Crisis
 - Brother (John) died suddenly (June 2002)
 - Difficult to "Soldier On"









"The Day My Business Almost Died"

- INC Magazine Article
 - "A Thief Within" (4/28/2003)
- Discovered Theft
 - Very Next Day
 - Accounting Manager & Receptionist stole over \$257,000 (Payroll and AP)







"The Day My Business Almost Died"

- Called Local Police
 - Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE)
- Decided to Prosecute
 - Not Many Small Businesses Do
- Contacted US Secret Service
- Leadership Challenge of a Lifetime
 - Wrote Letter to Employees
 - Called Vendors, etc.

Summary: "Staring at the Abyss"











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"The Courtroom"

- Sentencing Hearing
 - Nov. 22, 2004
 - 17 Days After Death of Mother
 - Accounting Manager
 - 100 Months in Federal Prison
 - Receptionist
 - Diversion Sentence
 - Pay Back approx. \$5,000
 - Emotionally Draining
 - Idea of "Keep Swinging" emerges









"The Comeback"

- If Theft Not Detected
 - ISI Would Fail by December 2003
- Employees Refusal to Give Up
- Local Support
 - Newspaper and local Media
 - Overwhelming
- Sales Team Double Revenue
 - Over \$10 million in 2004









Embezzlement Prevention Tips

- Conduct a civil and criminal background check on all employees. (Especially ones that handle your money)
- Take away the opportunity to steal by auditing all bank and credit card statements, payroll records, purchase orders etc. on a regular basis.
- Lead the charge by maintaining a culture of honesty and integrity in your business. (Zero tolerance for theft of any nature)
- Make sure employees take their vacations.
 (Provides oversight and possible detection)









Thank you! Questions?

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