

**COURTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF SEPTEMBER 11TH  
NINE-ELEVEN SUMMIT SESSIONS  
"EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANNING WORKSHOP"**

**MARRIOTT FINANCIAL CENTER  
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1           THOMAS BIRKLAND: This is the second panel on a  
2 workshop on Emergency Preparedness Planning. One thing, I  
3 would like to invite the people in the far side, while we are  
4 getting started here, to kind of sort of drift over into my  
5 field of vision here, if you don't mind. Because I tend to "-  
6 especially if you think you're going to be asking a question,  
7 because, when this is oriented, I like to see empty tables over  
8 here, basically. So, if you wouldn't mind moving towards sort  
9 of the middle of the room, there should be plenty of space.

10           I've been introduced already, twice now, so I guess I  
11 need no further introduction. But, what I'd like to start with  
12 is, asking our panel from my far right to "- as we did this  
13 morning, introduce yourself, and give us a little precede of  
14 why you're here and what you hope we accomplish in this  
15 workshop this morning.

16           FRANK RABBITO: My name is Frank Rabbito, I'm a  
17 Director of Court Programs and Projects for the Eleventh  
18 Judicial Circuit in Miami Florida. I'm the Emergency  
19 Coordination Officer among other assignments. And I'm here  
20 because my disaster was Hurricane Andrew.

21           ROBERT SALTZMAN: My name is Robert Saltzman, my sort  
22 of schizophrenic wife and my professional capacity. I'm a  
23 lawyer Discipline Counsel here in the New York State Court  
24 System, but I'm also the Chairman of the New York State Bar  
25 Associations Committee on Mass Disaster Response and I assisted

1 in coordinating a large response to the September 11, then two  
2 months later, I coordinated the large response to the crash of  
3 American Airlines Flight 587. I've worked on several other  
4 mass disasters or smaller disasters throughout the state. So,  
5 I'm going to talk about a disaster plan from a somewhat  
6 different perspective than -- than the court administrators.

7           TINA ROWE: Hello, I'm Tina Rowe, and I just finished  
8 a thirty-three year law enforcement career, so I had local law  
9 enforcement which is practical operational in planning with  
10 conflicts that can certainly arise. And then was the United  
11 States Marshal for Colorado when we had the Oklahoma City  
12 bombing trial, we were there for about three and a half years,  
13 so that was a long time of planning. But, the other reason why  
14 I'm here, and what I hope to share and voice, is that I just  
15 find the whole issue of planning to be actually kind of  
16 inspirational process for a court family. I really like it,  
17 and I for us to have that focus and so I am hoping that one  
18 thing that can come out of the summit, as well, as this  
19 session, is to sort of regenerate that right here at the last.

20 It's not something we do because it's important for safety and  
21 security, it's truly a very inspirational and encouraging  
22 process.

23           STEVEN STEADMAN: I'm Steve Steadman, I'm a District  
24 Court Administrator from the state of Wisconsin. For the last  
25 three years I've been the program manager for our statewide

1 Wisconsin courthouse security training program, and I would  
2 like the permission to go out of order and ask Tina, since she  
3 made that statement about planning, is it true that some folks  
4 fail to plan and other's plan to fail?

5 MS. ROWE: I don't know what he's doing on the panel.  
6 [Inaudible - laughter]

7 WALLY EDGELL: We won't get into that. I'm Wally.  
8 I'm the clerk, of the U.S. District Courts of the Northern  
9 District of West Virginia. I here because I assisted the Chief  
10 Judge and the District in developing a continuity of operations  
11 plan and we have one in place. Our Judge Keeley, who was just  
12 up here, is my Chief Judge, isn't she great? And I just hope  
13 that I can offer some guidance in developing a good plan for  
14 the other courts here, and learn something myself, and I have.

15 GREG COWAN: My name is Greg Cowan. I'm a court  
16 operations consultant with the State Court Administrator in  
17 Florida from the Florida Supreme Court. I served as the  
18 primary staff on Emergency Preparedness. I'm also involved in  
19 the implementation of policies that were developed by that  
20 workgroup that are on-going implementation for those policies.

21 SHARON BALSAMO: Hi, my name is Sharon Balsamo, I'm  
22 acting counsel for the New Jersey State Bar Association, and  
23 I've been involved with the Bar Association mass disaster  
24 response program for about the last five years. And within  
25 those five years, I have assisted in coordinating the Private

1 Bar's response to two major disasters current in New Jersey a  
2 few years ago, and then most recently, September 11.

3 MR. BIRKLAND: Great. Well, the first question I  
4 want to start out with "- is very much an echo to a question  
5 that we had this morning, but let's revisit it just for a  
6 moment, and talk "- especially since we have the new set of  
7 panelists.

8 The first thing I want to talk about, is -- is what  
9 sort of disasters or emergencies are we planning for? To put  
10 it in another way, what is a disaster or emergency for the  
11 purposes in the jurisdictions by the agencies or organizations  
12 your represent?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A major disaster is something  
14 that affects three major critical areas of a courthouse, those  
15 being in priority order, the people, the information, and the  
16 properties. Something that negatively impacts that over the  
17 substantial period of time, and affects your ability to bring  
18 those three critical components together to get the business of  
19 the court done.

20 MS. ROWE: In our view, it's probably just the same  
21 way that [inaudible] which is the past records, generally, and  
22 so I guess I think of it not so much as a disaster, but  
23 planning for any emergency event that could impact the people  
24 in the process. So we think of a demonstration, some community  
25 event that might have an impact on something, a major -- a

1 notorious trial, or a high-court trial. All of those things.

2 MR. COWAN: That was something that I was trying to  
3 stress this morning, was that emergencies are not just natural  
4 events or -- or bioterrorism, but just an extraordinary case.  
5 That becomes an emergency that has to be managed.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't think there was one  
7 action [inaudible] just mentioned to me, was riots. She faced  
8 -- has faced and will face, in each of the major courts in the  
9 major cities probably will too, and that's a completely  
10 different type of situation to get into, because you -- that's  
11 one of the ways we keep the people in instead of letting the  
12 people out. So, that's -- that's what she sees, and I think  
13 that is very important.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Another one -- speaking of  
15 staying in rather than out -- another one that was not  
16 mentioned in the planning session, is a chemical spill. In our  
17 state, and many other states, courthouses are on major highways  
18 and there is just all kinds of truck traffic that comes by the  
19 building, the last thing that you are going to want your folks  
20 to do, is run outside the building. What you are going to want  
21 to do, is go figure out how to shut down the area just as fast  
22 as you can. And, you know, so it's not all one recipe. It's  
23 not always run outside, and I think that's a critical thing  
24 that we don't want to lose. Sometimes, it's stay inside, go to  
25 your designated area, and wait for somebody that's in the know

1 to tell you.

2           MR. SALTZMAN: I'd just like to add, in the Bar  
3 Association point of view -- or from primarily the Bar  
4 Association point of view, anything that requires a large  
5 number of attorney's to come into the jurisdiction, to look for  
6 clients, anything that is a large amount of money involved.  
7 No, it's true. It's not everyone little secret yet, but that's  
8 one of our main concerns in dealing with disaster, and that's  
9 why we're here, is because, not only the Bar Associations  
10 embarrassed, but the entire

11                           [Inaudible beyond this point]

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