

NACVA Outstanding Member 1st Quarter 2009

What a great way to start off the New Year! It's an understatement to say this is a pleasant surprise. When I left my accounting practice to specialize in business valuation and litigation support at an RSM McGladrey network firm, I was admittedly hesitant. Soon after making the leap, however, it became clear I had made the right choice. Not only is this a dynamic field, it's interesting to watch the ongoing development of valuation theory. I can certainly relate to our part-time practitioner members and offer my encouragement.

At the Providence FT&T course, I was immediately impressed with how the instructors went out of their way to make sure the students understood the concepts. As I have a background in teaching, I know this is not an easy task. By the end of the week, I mentioned to Brien Jones my interest in participating and soon discovered how this organization really works.

A few months later, the first of many technical review and course development projects arrived in the mail. As my involvement grew, I was also fortunate to meet a number of the profession's best and brightest individuals who repeatedly have made time for my questions. This direction proved to be invaluable and helped to accelerate our practice. Eventually, I became an instructor for NACVA's Small Business Case Study and the BV Fundamentals for CPA's courses. I am still amazed at the constant refinement of the materials and the efficiency of the folks behind the scenes.

There are a number of forces behind the scenes for me I should mention. First, my family is my greatest source of happiness, though our newborn son shares his enthusiasm both day and night. My employer, Mikunda Cottrell, provides both support and a challenging environment; my students, encourage my enthusiasm; and my martial arts sensei, have all helped me grow personally or professionally. This recognition is as much a reflection of their efforts as mine.

One aspect of being involved in a progressive organization is that distance is becoming less of a limiting factor. Whereas flying to training from Alaska can be challenging, access to quality information is hardly more than a phone call or a few clicks away. I still prefer face-to-face interaction, but I'm appreciative of these alternatives. This sense of community is beyond my experience with other professional organizations.

Whenever I get caught up in the craziness of litigation or trying to manage deadlines in this unpredictable business, I'm thankful for the resources NACVA provides through innumerable courses, networking and mentorship forums, innovative technology, and positive encouragement. Ultimately, it's being around smart, curious, like minded individuals that will keep me involved with this organization for the rest of my career.

Thank you for this honor.

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