Internal Audit Resilience and Accountable Governance

*Six Decades After*

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Keynote Speech
AGIA
✔ Resilience
✔ Accountable Governance
“Auditors are the BRAKES that allow the organization to drive faster.”
Audit is a **CRITICAL COMPONENT** of an organization’s navigating system.
“Internal audit provides turn-by-turn advice on reaching the destination.

“It recognizes when a turn has been missed, and quickly alerts the driver to make a legal U-turn.”
A strong and effective internal audit system leads to:

- Improved accountability
- Ethical and Professional practices
- Effecting Risk Management
- Improving Quality Output
- Supporting Decision Making and Performance Tracking
Misconceptions and Truths
Setting the record straight
Misconceptions vs. Truths

Misconception
“Auditing is boring.”

Truth
- Exposed to a variety of operations
- Understands the overall working of an organization
- Work encompasses a broader scope
Misconceptions vs. Truths

Misconception

“Auditors only crunch numbers.”

Truth

◦ Crunching numbers isn’t the only part of the job
◦ Collaborates with members from top to bottom
◦ Auditing requires skills in communication and diplomacy
## Misconceptions vs. Truths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Misconception</th>
<th>Truth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Auditing is just a desk job.”</td>
<td>◦ Auditors travel to field offices all over the country – even around the world</td>
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<td>◦ Client interaction is still important to auditors</td>
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<td>◦ Clients expect auditors to meet them halfway</td>
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Misconceptions vs. Truths

Misconception

“There is no work-life balance in auditing.”

Truth

- Auditing gives a well-balanced schedule
- Auditors can still find time to work the few long hours AND have time for family, hobbies, and other interests
Objectivity

WHAT ARE THE ODDS THAT YOU MADE THIS COMPLICATED SPREAD-SHEET WITHOUT ANY CRITICAL ERRORS?

DOES IT MATTER, AS LONG AS IT GIVES ME THE ANSWER I WANT?

IT SHOULD.

BUT ASK YOURSELF IF IT DOES.

Image source: Dilbert.com
Objectivity

- A cornerstone of auditing
- The data you gather must always be unbiased
- Do not make reckless and irresponsible statements
- Complements independence
Independence

WHY ARE WE GOING AHEAD WITH THE PLAN WHEN THE DATA SAYS IT CAN'T SUCCEED?

I MANAGE BY INSTINCT AND GUT FEELINGS.

HOW'S THAT DIFFERENT FROM BEING INSANE OR STUPID?

MY GUT SAYS I SHOULD NOT LISTEN TO YOU.

Image source: Dilbert.com
Independence

- Never let personal biases and preferences get in the way
- Reports must be free from undue influence
- Opinions of others have no use in your report
Competence

DID YOU FINISH THE DESIGN ACCORDING TO MY SPECS?

YUP.

HYPOTHetically, IF I HAD FORGETten TO MENTION SEVERAL FEATURES, WOULD THAT BE A PROBLEM?

AND LET'S SAY THE DEADLINE IS STILL THE Same.

NO PROBLEM. I ALWAYS PLAN MY SCHEDULE AROUND YOUR IN-COMPETENCE.

Image source: Dilbert.com
Competence

- Rigorous training prepares you to be competent in the workplace
- Be updated with new technologies
- Be innovative! You could be the next benchmark!
Confidentiality

Image source: Dilbert.com
Confidentiality

- Your clients are your priority.
- Sharing their information is unforgivable.
Integrity

There seems to be some confusion about what our company culture is.

Our priorities are honesty, integrity, and return on investment.

Which priority is the highest? Integrity won't buy me a new boat.

Image source: Dilbert.com
Integrity

- Auditing is an honest man's work
- Someone who is a hypocrite, dishonest, or manipulative should not be an auditor
“In looking for people to hire, look for three qualities: **integrity**, intelligence, and energy. If they don’t have the first one, the other two will kill you.”

- Warren Buffet
Integrity

"A reputation of integrity takes years to build... but only seconds to lose."
Main Takeaways

Insights to take home
Main Takeaways

1. Facts are King
2. Remove personal biases from work
3. Do your job well; learn how to do it better
4. Safe keep confidential information
5. Above all else... Protect your integrity
Thank you!