

April 18, 2022

Mr. Michael Haley
President, ARMA International
312 SW Greenwich Dr.
Lee's Summit, MO 64082

An Open Letter to Michael Haley, President, ARMA International

Dear Mr. Haley,

On March 30th, I posted an article to my Next Generation Records Management blog [entitled 'The Fifth Lie'](#). In this article, I state my belief that the 'information governance' discipline that seemingly appeared out of nowhere some ten years ago – and was quickly embraced by ARMA International – is, in reality, a deceptive marketing campaign used by powerful organizations in an open war on records management meant to prevent the information lifecycle management that records management professionals have provided for centuries.

When I dared to publicly question this industry shift away from traditional records management practices to a new discipline I believed had never been fully defined, I was repeatedly attacked in the most forceful and personal ways by the same organizations that intended to benefit from the destruction of the records management profession.

One of those attacks – [as you well know](#) – was from a powerful member of ARMA's past leadership. This person used her industry influence to convince dishonest individuals at my former employer to force me out of my job as retaliation for my defense of the records management profession.

I have been widely criticized for pursuing the identity of "the woman from ARMA" who orchestrated my termination from IBM and forced me and my family out of the only home my children ever knew. I have been repeatedly told that I "shouldn't take her actions personally" and I should "just let it go." But her attack on me wasn't simply one professional's cowardly assault on another professional's career. It was a recognized member of ARMA's leadership attacking the very profession that your association once so proudly represented for more than a half century. And she did it *because she was told to do it* by the same powerful people who will benefit so tremendously from the destruction of our ancient profession.

You are the current President of ARMA International, Mr. Haley. You cannot continue to ignore this matter and hope it goes away - as so many of your predecessors have done. The war on records management has prevented some very powerful people from being held accountable for some horrible behavior. It has destroyed our democratic right to privacy. It poses an existential [risk to our national security](#). And it has resulted in the [deaths of innocent men, women, and children](#). As ARMA's President, you *must* act now, sir, and you have only two options to choose from.

Your first option is to defend ARMA's reputation by publicly denying my allegations against your past leadership and sue me in court for defaming your association. If this is your decision, I suggest you initiate litigation as quickly as possible. I am happy to provide your attorneys with any information they may require.

But barring a public denial and a defamation suit against me, the only other honorable option you have is to work with your Board of Directors to initiate an investigation into my allegations and provide me with the information I originally requested in my May 3, 2021 letter to then-ARMA President Jason Stearns, which I will repeat here:

- 1) The name of the woman among your past leadership who contacted IBM corporate leadership and used her influence to convince IBM to have me terminated from the company*
- 2) The names of anyone within ARMA's leadership, membership, or staff with whom this woman conspired*
- 3) Any internal physical or electronic records (and associated metadata) related to their actions*
- 4) The names of all IBM employees with whom these ARMA co-conspirators collaborated*
- 5) Any internal email, text message, direct message, or voicemail records (and associated metadata) related in any way to your Association's attack on me*
- 6) Any email (or other correspondence) records between ARMA employees and IBM from January 1, 2017 through today*
- 7) ARMA's official association records management policy document*
- 8) Documentation proving the recorded information above was properly preserved for provenance, authenticity, and integrity*

Many of your dues-paying members still consider themselves records management professionals, Mr. Haley. They have a right to know the truth about ARMA's participation in the war on their profession – and, more importantly, if they are somehow contributing to the terrible consequences it creates.

As ARMA's current President, you must take action on my claims. If you are unable to do so, you are derelict in your duties, and you owe it to your members to resign.

One final thing, sir. Regardless of what you choose to do, please let me remind you that I notified ARMA leadership of the association's duty to preserve all records relevant to this matter in my June 7, 2019 letter to then-ARMA President, Ryan Zilm, and ARMA's attorney, Madison Perry.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Lueders, CRM

Donald R. Lueders, CRM

CC:

Wendy McClain, President-Elect, ARMA International

Jason C. Stearns, Immediate Past President, ARMA International