

The Reading List



BY BRENDA SAPINO JEFFREYS

IT'S BEEN LESS THAN A YEAR SINCE HURRICANE KATRINA AND HURRICANE RITA CAUSED HORRIFIC DESTRUCTION ALONG THE GULF COAST. BUT SUMMERTIME IS HURRICANE SEASON, AND ONE OF THE BOOKS ON THE READING LIST IS A PARTICULARLY TIMELY READ. THE BOOK IS A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY KATRINA IN NEW ORLEANS AND ALONG THE GULF COAST, AND AN ANALYSIS OF THE FAILURE OF SOME PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO PROPERLY PREPARE FOR THE STORM OR TO SEND ENOUGH AID QUICKLY. THE OTHER BOOKS ON THE LIST INCLUDE A GRIPPING TALE OF THE 12-DAY MANHUNT FOR JOHN WILKES BOOTH, THE ACTOR WHO SHOT PRESIDENT ABRAHAM

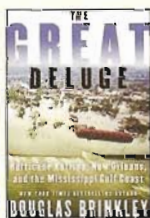
LINCOLN IN 1865, AND A READABLE GUIDE TO CREDIT AND BANKRUPTCY LAWS. ALL THREE BOOKS ARE WORTH THE TIME FOR BUSY CORPORATE EXECUTIVES LOOKING FOR A GOOD VACATION READ.

"The Great Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast"

BY DOUGLAS BRINKLEY

William Morrow/2006/716 pages

It's hurricane season in Texas, and this book is for anyone interested in a ground-floor view of the devastation in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast Hurricane Katrina caused last August. Author Douglas Brinkley, a professor of history at Tulane University in New Orleans, interviewed what seems like dozens of victims of the hurricane, along with many common-man heroes of the storm. He then wrote a chronological narrative about survival in the Gulf Coast in the weeks after the storm. Brinkley praises the organized, speedy relief efforts of many individuals and some government agencies, such as the U.S. Coast Guard and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. He applauds Houston's efforts to take in thousands of homeless evacuees from New Orleans. But Brinkley is highly critical of the too-little, too-late efforts of others, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In particular, Brinkley criticizes the way New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin handled the crisis and finds fault with President George W. Bush for not immediately understanding the serious nature of the natural disaster. Business leaders can learn a lot from this book, mostly about how not to handle preparations for a major hurricane. It is a worthwhile read for corporate executives who have the power and the means to encourage government to act swiftly and efficiently in a crisis. [See "Responding to Public Health Crises," page 14.]



"Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer"

BY JAMES L. SWANSON

William Morrow/2006/464 pages

This historical account of the 12-day manhunt for

John Wilkes Booth, the man who shot President Abraham Lincoln in 1865, isn't precisely a book about the law or about business. But it reads like a detective novel and is worth the time for corporate executives with an interest in history or Civil War-era justice. After Booth, an actor and staunch Confederate sympathizer, shot Lincoln during a performance at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., he fled the city into Maryland and then into Virginia, where he and an accomplice hid out in a barn. The author, a Lincoln historian and lawyer, describes in detail how soldiers cornered Booth and an accomplice in the barn and set it afire, then a soldier shot Booth while he was still in the burning barn. The assassin died a few hours later on April 26, 1865. The forthcoming movie will star Harrison Ford as a detective pursuing Booth.



"Guide to Credit & Bankruptcy"

BY THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Random House Reference/2006/299 pages

This handbook's useful information and easy-to-understand format make it helpful for corporate executives wanting a quick answer on a particular topic. It includes short sidebars on topics such as the history of the credit card and a section entitled "Talking to a Lawyer," in which lawyers and bankers answer common questions involving how not to get burned by a phishing scam, or what happens to a tax refund when someone has filed for bankruptcy? Among other useful tips, the book discusses how to avoid and fight identity theft. Principal author David Hudson Jr., a lawyer in Nashville, does a good job covering what everyone needs to know about credit and bankruptcy, whether the reader is a chief executive officer of a corporation or a lower-level employee.

