

Member Spotlight Q & A Joe Topinka

HFMA: Please tell us about your current position and how you came to a career in Healthcare:

I have been a military attorney for close to twenty years and provided legal counsel to members of local military medical facilities. I became very interested in Army Medicine and asked to be a command counsel for a medical region and a medical center. It was the best job I ever had and from that point on, I decided to remain in the military medical field. I hope to someday transfer my experience and passion into a civilian, health law practice.

HFMA: What is the biggest challenge you expect to face in your job this coming year?

Teaching future leaders in the military healthcare field.

HFMA: How did you first learn about HFMA and what would you say are the primary benefits of HFMA membership?

I spoke to a military comptroller who felt that HFMA was the kind of organization a person with legal, financial, and medical interests such as me should join.

HFMA: What do you hope to gain out of your membership in HFMA South Texas Chapter?

I hope to learn more about what is happening in the civilian, medical legal sector so that I can become more proficient in my practice of health law especially when I retire and join the civilian sector. I also hope to develop more interesting ways to teach the chapter's membership and prepare members to sit for the CHFP exam.

HFMA: Who was the first member you met?

George Hill, the current Certification Committee Chair who I will be succeeding.

HFMA: What is your current position with the chapter?

Incoming Chair of the Certification Committee.

HFMA: Please share with us some information about your personal life (family, interests, hobbies, interesting facts, etc.)

I have a wonderful wife and young daughter and a kindly cat. I love history and love visiting our National Parks.

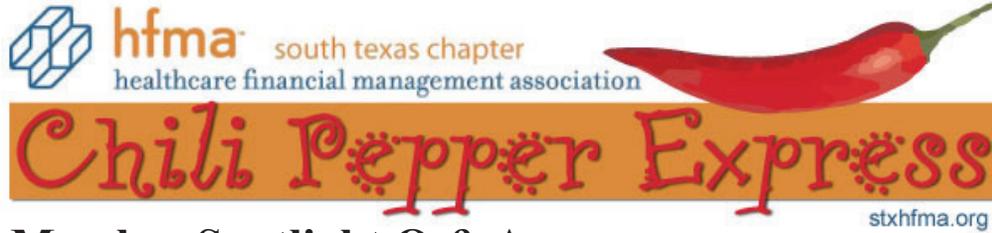
HFMA: Favorite place you've traveled and favorite place you would like to travel to:

Favorite place is the United Kingdom. Would like to travel to the South Pole and also take the Orient Express from Beijing to Moscow.

HFMA: What is one thing you'd like to do in your lifetime that is on your "Bucket List":

World Cruise with my family.





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HFMA: Favorite way to relax and/or favorite thing to do with your family:

Travel and get out of the house showing my young daughter new sites and sounds.

HFMA: If you were not in HEALTHCARE, what would you be doing?

Teaching law or practicing it in the civilian sector.

HFMA: Tell us something about your life that you would like to BRAG about:

I have published or co-published several works including: Expanding Subpoena Power in the Military, Army Lawyer, September 2003; Yaw, Pitch, and Roll, Quarantine and Isolation at United States Airports, The Journal of Legal Medicine, January-March 2009; Legal Counsel: A Leadership Tool, The United States Army Medical Department Journal, October-December 2009, Gifts of Travel Benefits from Nonfederal Sources to Military and Civilian Government Employees, The United States Army Medical Department Journal, January-March 2010; The Importance of Health Law Attorneys in the U.S. Army, Annals of Health Law, The Health Policy and Law Review of Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Volume 19 (2009-2010); 14 Principles of Ethical Conduct in Practice, United States Army Medical Department Journal, January-March 2012; Fiscal Law Overview, United States Army Medical Department Journal, January-March 2012; Public Health Emergency Law: A Primer for Leaders and Managers in the Military, United States Army Medical Department Journal, January-March 2012.

WHATEVER IT TAKES