

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: ANNIE SEARLE



Annie Searle is Principal of Annie Searle & Associates LLC – also known as ASA Risk Consultants -- an independent consulting and research firm, serving businesses and organizations that are part of the nation’s critical infrastructure. ASA offers neutral and confidential assessments of existing plans and programs, identifies gaps and offers customized road maps to increase resiliency. ASA’s Institute for Risk and Innovation helps drive policy change in areas ranging from public-private sector critical infrastructure resilience, to financial regulation, digital privacy and crisis management best practices. More information can be found at www.anniesearle.com.

Searle is an affiliate faculty member at the University of Washington’s School of Information, where she has designed two operational risk graduate courses, a lifetime member of The Institute of American Entrepreneurs, and a 2011 inductee into The Hall of Fame

for Women in Homeland Security and Emergency Management. She is one of roughly 50 thought leaders selected for the past six years by New York University for its annual Global Roundtable on Public-Private Preparedness.

Searle’s first book focuses on identifying and handling personal risk at home, at work, online, and on the road, titled **Advice From A Risk Detective** (Tautegory Press, October 2011). In February of 2012, Searle’s firm published a collection of 22 research notes titled **Reflections on Risk**, which includes an introduction and commentary by Searle on each of the notes. More information on the books can be found at www.advicefromariskdetective.com. A second, expanded edition of **Advice From A Risk Detective** was published in May of 2013, and includes a new chapter (“At School”) as well as updated advice on smart technology, social media and privacy. A second volume of **Reflections on Risk** was published in February of 2014.

An accomplished public speaker, Searle’s upcoming and past conference presentations include:

- “The BIA as the Foundation of Operational Risk Management,” 2014 Continuity Insights Conference (April 2014)
- “Living Wills,” and “Too big to fail, too big to regulate,” *OpExWorld* Conference, Amsterdam (February 2014)
- “Walking the Security Tightrope,” 2013 Pacific NW Construction Industry Conference (November 2013)
- “Corporate Risk Management Since 9/11,” Starbucks (September 2013)
- “Making A Crisis Count: Transitioning From Reaction to Proactive Enterprise Risk Assessment,”

- Institute of Internal Auditors Governance Risk and Control Conference (August 2013)
- “Extending Our Reach,” DHS-FEMA Public Private Partnerships Conference (July 2013)
- “Managing the Risk of Cyber Fraud,” Washington Society for Certified Public Accountants 2013 Business and Management Conference (June 2013)
- “Cyber Security/Cyber Terrorism,” Financial Services Roundtable Shared Assessments Forum (March 2013)
- “Ethical Misconduct: Is It Your Biggest Risk?” Pacific Northwest Enterprise Risk Forum (November 2012).
- “Business Continuity Planning: Lessons from the Joplin Tornado,” Fall EPCOR conference (October 2012)
- “What Does An Internal Auditor Really Need to Know about Crisis Management?” Governance Risk and Control Conference, Institute of Internal Auditors (August 2012)
- “Thinking Big About Small Business,” FEMA-USNORTHCOM *Building Resilience through Public-Private Preparedness Conference* (July 2012)
- “What Keeps You Up at Night,” Executive Women’s Forum Northwest (July 2012)
- “Business Continuity Planning: Lessons from the Joplin Tornado,” Spring EPCOR conference (May 2012)
- “Tweet Me Up: Using Social Media Tools for Crisis Management” at the Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference (April 2011)
- “Integrating Cloud and Making It Work,” BITS/Financial Services Roundtable Shared Assessments Summit (March 2011)
- “Community Security and Resiliency/Recovery in a Catastrophic Biological Incident” at the Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration Capstone Summit (September 2010)
- “Conquering Tough Challenges Through Public-Private Partnerships” at the Fall DRI Conference (October 2010)
- “Building Public/Private Partnerships,” DRI World Conference (September 2010)
- Invited participate (one of 50 thought leaders), International Public-Private Preparedness Summit, New York University (June 2010)
- “Security Interoperability and Cloud Computing” at the Financial Services Roundtable Shared Assessments Summit (May 2010)
- “A Seat at the Table for Operational Risk” at the 7th Annual International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (May 2010)
- “Making the Business Case for Continuity in a Tight Economy,” Partners in Emergency Preparedness Annual Conference (April 2010)

She is the author of a number of articles, including “Are Living Wills the Answer?” (Risk Universe, February 2014), “Vendor Risk and Intellectual Property (Risk Universe, November 2013), “Remembering 9/11” (Risk Universe September 2013), “Every Wall Is A Door” (Risk Universe June 2013), “Perfect Pitch: Writing for Executives” (Risk Universe March 2013), “Ethical Misconduct: Is It Your Biggest Risk?” (Risk Universe, November 2012), “Reflections on The Lost Bank” (Risk Universe, July 2012), “Operational Risk is on the Line” (Continuity Insights, 2012), “The Crisis Management Playbook” (Continuity Insights, 2012), “How Worried Are You?” (Seattle Business magazine, 2011), “Data Protection: Five Simple Mitigation Strategies to Minimize Personal Information Loss” (Nymity PrivaWorks, 2010), “A Seat at the Table for Operational Risk” (ISCRAM 2010 Proceedings) and “Diplomacy and the Law” (ASA, 2010); “Simpler Internal Controls” (ASA 2009) and “Pandemic is a Predictable Surprise” (ASA 2009); and “U.S. Financial Sector Prepares for Pandemic Flu” (2007), as well as “Pandemic Readiness in the U.S. Financial Services Sector: When Failure is Not an Option” (2008) both

published by the British Journal of Business Continuity & Emergency Planning.

Prior to founding ASA in 2009, Searle spent ten years at Washington Mutual Bank (WaMu) where for most of those years she was responsible on a company-wide level for business continuity, disaster recovery, technology risk and compliance, technology change management, and (for several years) for vendor and application information security. As Senior Vice President for Enterprise Risk Services, Annie and her teams redesigned and rebuilt those programs to world-class status, utilizing a federated model in partnership with the bank's lines of business. Over those years, she and her team reduced regulatory and audit risk by over 30%, reduced operating budgets year over year by 10-15%, and reduced downtime from natural disasters or technology outages by over 50% in five years. Searle also chaired WaMu's Crisis Management Team and was the executive sponsor of the bank's technology innovation program.

Nationally, Searle represented WaMu for eight years on the BITS Advisory Board for the Financial Services Roundtable (FSR), based in Washington, D.C. She was a 2006 delegate to the FSR Blue Ribbon Commission on Mega-Catastrophes which focused on earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, pandemics and terrorism. That same year, she worked with the Department of Treasury to organize WashingtonFIRST, a regional coalition focused on resiliency issues for the financial services sector.

Prior to joining Washington Mutual in 1999, Searle served for 15 years as president and CEO of Delphi Computers & Peripherals. For her work at Delphi, Searle won the *1992 Northwest Entrepreneur of the Year* award from Inc. magazine and Ernst & Young; and the *Matrix Table Woman of Achievement* award in 1994.

Searle holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in literature from the University of Iowa. She is a member of the board of the Seattle Public Library Foundation; and a former board member of NPower Seattle; Washington Works; and the Washington Commission for the Humanities. Her professional affiliations include membership in the Business Executives for National Security; Women's Executive Forum; InfraGard; and the Global Association of Risk Partners (GARP).