



2011 Emmett Leahy Award Recipient Announced

The Emmett Leahy Award Committee is pleased to announce that on September 15, 2011, Jason R. Baron, Director of Litigation at the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, received the Emmett Leahy Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Information and Records Management Profession. John P. Phillips, the recipient of the 2001 Emmett Leahy Award, presented the award at a ceremony at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC.

Named after Emmett J. Leahy, the Emmett Leahy Award is presented annually to recognize an individual whose contributions and outstanding accomplishments have had a significant impact on the records and information management profession. It is differentiated from other awards in the following ways:

- Membership in a professional organization such as ARMA, the SAA, AIIM, RMAA, or the ICA, among others, is meritorious but it is not a threshold requirement.
- Demonstration of service to a profession also is meritorious but it is not a differentiating requirement.
- Authorship of professional and presentations is commendable but it is not a threshold requirement.
- Original contributions that fundamentally moved the information and records management discipline in a direction that it might not otherwise have gone is a threshold requirement.

The Emmett Leahy Award Committee selected Jason R. Baron, because his leadership efforts in promoting an awareness of the importance of good records management to the legal profession. He has done so over two decades, beginning with his involvement as a trial attorney and senior counsel defending the government's interests in *Armstrong v. EOP* (the "PROFS" case), and assisting in the drafting of NARA's first email regulations. After joining the staff of the National Archives in 2000, Jason's experience includes having led a team of 25 archivists and lawyers responding to discovery demands in *United States v. Phillip Morris*, the lawsuit brought by the Justice Department against tobacco companies alleging violations of the RICO Act and other statutes. This intense experience in having to search through tens of millions of White House emails led him to key insights regarding the limitations of keyword searching in fulfillment of legal discovery obligations.

Jason Baron's leadership, including educating the profession on best practices in search and retrieval in legal discovery, and by extension, into other disciplines including archives and records management, represents an outstanding contribution to the records and information management profession. He has done so through his work with The Sedona Conference®, through his scholarship, and through his lecturing in hundreds of forums across the U.S. and the world. He also helped found the TREC Legal Track for the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Text Retrieval Conference. This is a unique international research project evaluating competing search methods used by lawyers. It is widely considered to be great value across many disciplines. In addition, he founded an international series of workshops known as the "DESI Workshop Series," which stands for the Discovery of Electronically Stored Information, in which academics from the fields of information science, computer science, and artificial intelligence, have gotten together with representatives of the legal community to discuss ways for lawyers to improve searching for information in various litigation contexts.

2011 Emmett Leahy Award Committee

Charles Dollar, Committee Chair
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Christine Ardern • Eugenia Brumm • Adrian Cunningham
Luciana Duranti • Maria Guercio Bruce Miller
John Phillips • Ken Thibodeau • Anne Thurston

**Emmett Leahy Award
Committee**



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About the Emmett Leahy Award

The Emmett Leahy Award is the highest award for individual accomplishment in the information and records management profession. Given in honor of Emmett Leahy, the renowned and legendary pioneer of information and records management, this award annually recognizes an individual whose contributions and outstanding accomplishments have had a major impact on the records and information management profession. Selection of the award recipient is made by the Emmett Leahy Award Committee that is composed of the last ten winners of this prestigious award. The Emmett Leahy Award is presented at the annual meeting of the Institute of Certified Records Managers that is held concurrently with the ARMA International Annual Conference. Past winners have included users, educators, archivists, records managers, and consultants - both within the United States and internationally. The expenses of the Emmett Leahy Award Committee are underwritten by the Huron Consulting Group as part of its commitment to promoting and recognizing excellence in records management.

The Emmett Leahy Award Committee is an independent entity and is not a part of the Institute of Certified Records Managers, ARMA International, or Huron Consulting Group. The selection of the annual Emmett Leahy Award recipient is the exclusive responsibility of the Emmett Leahy Award Committee.

More information about the award ceremony, including photographs, texts of remarks made during the program, and a video recording is available by clicking on www.emmettleahyaward.org.

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