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For More Information Contact:
Greg Fordham
K&F Consulting, Inc.
Phone: 770-642-0311
Toll Free: 800-335-1188
Fax: 770-642-9913
Email: greg@knfcon.com

Preserving Electronic Evidence for Litigation is More Than Just Not Deleting Documents, says K&F Consulting's Greg Fordham

ALPHARETTA, Ga. -- A misstep in preserving electronic data for litigation could mean defeat before the enemy is even engaged.

That's the conclusion observed by Greg Fordham, a founder of K&F Consulting Inc., and an expert witness in many state and federal cases involving e-discovery and computer forensics.

According to Fordham simply, "Just not deleting anything off the computer isn't enough."

"The continued use of a computer can alter important metadata such as file system date and time stamps. Similarly continued use can overwrite dynamic system data such as virtual memory stored to a disk, or overwrite deleted data so that it is unrecoverable," he said.

In a recent paper titled "Preservation: Don't Lose Before You Begin," Fordham outlines steps litigators should take to preserve electronic data. The complete paper is available at www.knfcon.com/LIBRARY/PRIMERS/PreserveAndWin.pdf.

Steps Fordham recommends include: early notice to preserve evidence – even prior to filing; preserving electronic evidence in a forensically sound manner that will capture the full spectrum of data; and developing a questionnaire or guide that seeks specific details about a clients electronic and computer systems.

K& F Consulting offers a model client interview questionnaire and preservation notice that is available for downloading from the firm's web site. Both are available at no

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charge. The preservation notice may be found at www.knfcon.com/e-preserve.pdf. The client interview questionnaire is available at www.knfcon.com/e-interview.pdf.

About K&F Consulting

K&F Consulting services a nationwide clientele. The firm provides a variety of e-discovery and computer forensic services including database forensics, software forensics as well as the more well known forms of computer forensics. The company's web address is www.knfcon.com.