



THE NEW ELLIS GROUP

Monday Monday

Connecting the Dots with Karen Kaplowitz



*Helping you create and reinforce the habits of successful career building,
gleaned from my work as a business development strategist, trainer and coach*

Volume 6, Issue 8

April 9, 2012

The Dream Power of the Lottery. When millions of people lined up to buy lottery tickets recently, we didn't just create a giant jackpot. We also experienced a couple of days in which millions of us gave ourselves permission to assess our lives and indulge in fantasies about what we would do if we won the jackpot. Before we let go of that experience, consider what you learned about yourself and your ambitions in the process:

- Did you imagine doing some other type of work or activity that would create greater meaning in your life?
- Did you want to continue working as a professional?
- What would you change about your work if you had the freedom of great wealth to do so?
- Would you need to learn new skills?
- Whose help would you need? Do you know the people who would fit the bill?
- Would you need to organize your life differently to accomplish your goals?
- What process would help you figure out the changes that would get you closer to your dreams?

Can you extend that lottery-winning "dream state" a little longer and consider what changes in your work might be feasible even without the infusion of a lottery jackpot in your life for financial security?

Example: When the economy caused a major law firm to cut back on its expansion plans, the firm's change of direction left one partner adrift since he had agreed to move to head up a new office in another part of the country for the firm. The partner was offered the opportunity to stay put in his original position and the firm agreed to make him whole financially for the disruption. But since he had already arranged for his children to change schools and had transitioned some clients to new lawyers to handle their work, he decided it was a good time to consider other options. He had always wanted to work in government but had not been willing to take a break in his successful career. He had also thought about working overseas. He reached out to a number of contacts to explore his options and found several interesting possibilities outside his firm: a government appointment and an assignment to work overseas for a client. When he told his firm's chair that he was considering taking on one of these assignments, his firm surprised him by offering an attractive role leading his practice group in a new office abroad. He ended up with three exciting new opportunities to pick from.

Do you have to wait to win the lottery-- or experience some crisis in your law firm-- before you give yourself permission to step outside the normal path and consider something new in your career?