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WHAT WOULD YOU DO? A Tough Choice

By John West Hadley

Here is our next entry in the “*What Would You Do?*” series.¹ Write to me at SteppingStone@JHACareers.com to tell me what you would do. In the next issue, I’ll compile the responses received (preserving your anonymity, of course), along with what actually happened in the real-life situation.

Help me craft future case studies. Write to me about your own challenging, surprising or nightmarish situations involving business, leadership, management, or any of the topic areas covered by *The Stepping Stone*, and what lessons you learned from them. I’ll collaborate with you on turning your situation into a simple case study, being careful to ensure no one is identifiable. And share your own thoughts (pro and con) on the series as a whole at SteppingStone@JHACareers.com.

A TOUGH CHOICE

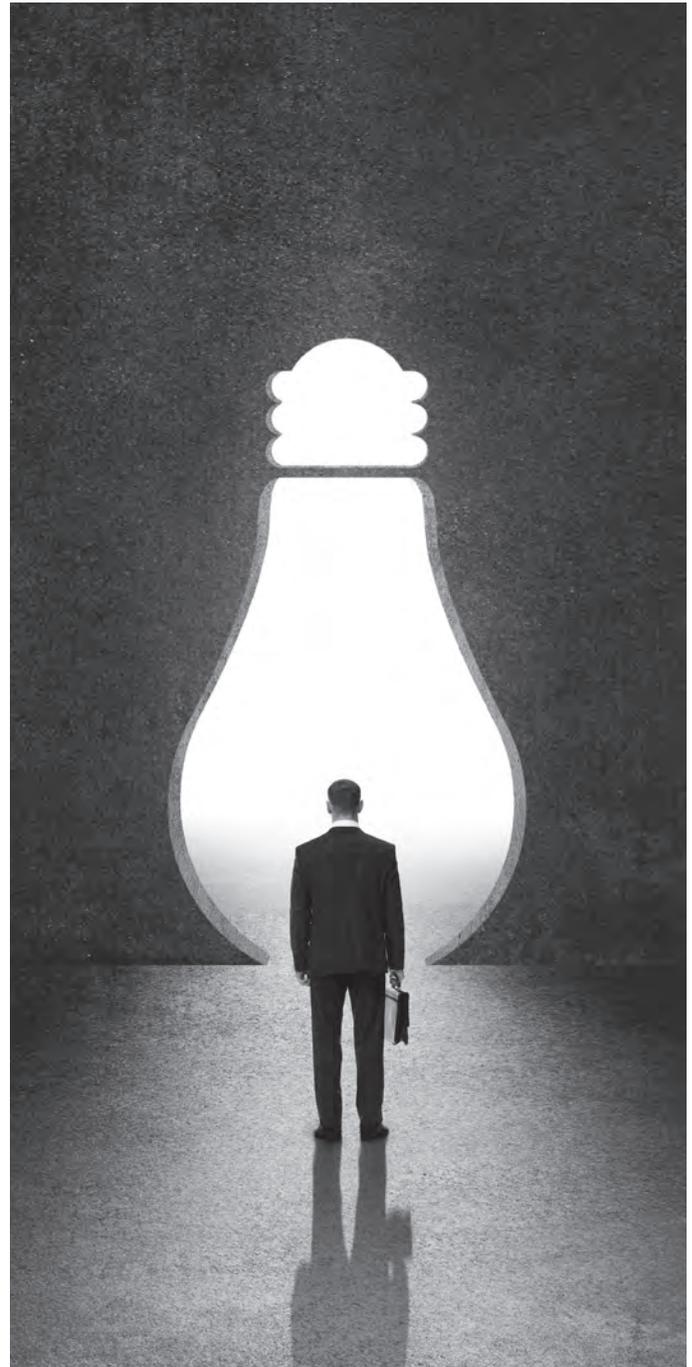
Sam is a career ASA, laid off after working for the same company for many years. He worries that he hasn’t gotten that many opportunities to expand his skills, and is afraid he will never land an actuarial role at his current level. The good news is that he has a year of severance to help bridge the gap.

A friend offers to have him do on-site technical support work for his consulting firm three days per week. The work isn’t that exciting, likely won’t build Sam’s marketable skills in meaningful ways, and it will pay 30 percent less than his prior job. It will also eat into the core time he would otherwise be spending networking and interviewing. Still, it will allow him to extend his financial cushion in case his search takes longer than expected, and he’s always heard that it’s better to look for a job while employed. He reaches out to an actuarial mentor for advice.

1. If you were that mentor, what questions would you ask Sam?
2. If you were Sam, what would you do? ■



John Hadley is a career counselor working with job seekers frustrated by their search and professionals struggling to increase their visibility and influence. He can be reached at John@JHACareers.com or 908.725.2437. Find his free *Career Tips* newsletter and other resources at www.JHACareers.com.



ENDNOTE

- 1 Past issues in the series have considered whether to demote or fire a difficult employee; performance reviews and their aftermath; interview challenges from both sides of the desk; evaluating job offers; miscommunications; a difficult product decision; how to build connections with the home office; and career decisions. To catch up on the entire series, which started in May 2013, check out back issues of *The Stepping Stone* on the Leadership & Development Section website at www.SOA.org/ld.