

AUTHOR'S NOTE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This is a work of memory. The events described cover more than twenty years and were experienced without any intention of writing about them. Only after most of the period was past did I perceive the significance of the time and the events.

Working from memory requires reconstruction. My commitment was to accuracy. The task I set for myself was to discuss only illustrative transactions and events, to be as unobtrusive as possible in the lives of the people described, and not to disclose any confidences or privileged matters. Where persons who were clients were described in more than a superficial way, I furnished the material to them and discussed it with them and, if requested, with their advisors. It should be understood that no client waived in any manner the lawyer-client privilege, or any other privilege, with respect to any matters covered. The process of reviewing the material with others was helpful to me. The events took on more depth as other perspectives were considered, and factual accuracy was

enhanced. The point of view presented is my own, and it almost goes without saying that any mistakes are mine. I appreciate the cooperation I received and want especially to thank Ilan Reich, who was willing to relive, in exhausting detail, a dark period of his life. Ilan's personal strength is evident. He has renewed his marriage, grown his family to four children, and extended his skills working as a business executive in Manhattan.

The events covered are often related as stories with scenes and dialogue. That is the way I experienced them and think about them. The dialogue should not be considered as a verbatim report. The dialogue set out in this book is a reconstruction of what I remember the persons said or rendition of their point of view in the situations described.

This work took over four years to write. No undertaking for such an extended period can be carried out without the encouragement of others. I am most appreciative of Kitty Hawks's love and affection. Her Hawk eye always seeks and finds the elegant structure and the simple solution. Kitty also understands people and knows how to get things done. Kitty found Kathy Robbins, my literary agent, for me. Kathy was as committed as I was, sometimes more so (which is a tribute to her, given my own determination). Kathy is smart and wise and as good a counselor as I have ever met. Kathy brought me to my editor, Linda Healey. Linda is astute, thoughtful, and perceptive. Her diligence astounded me and it was no surprise to find that she understood the cases as well as I did. From first to last, my secretary, Monica Alessi, saw me through every step. She was my first reader, and the first reader always holds a very special place in a writer's heart. Even the birth of her son Vincent didn't interfere with her delivery of the manuscript. With all that support, the four years did not seem long.