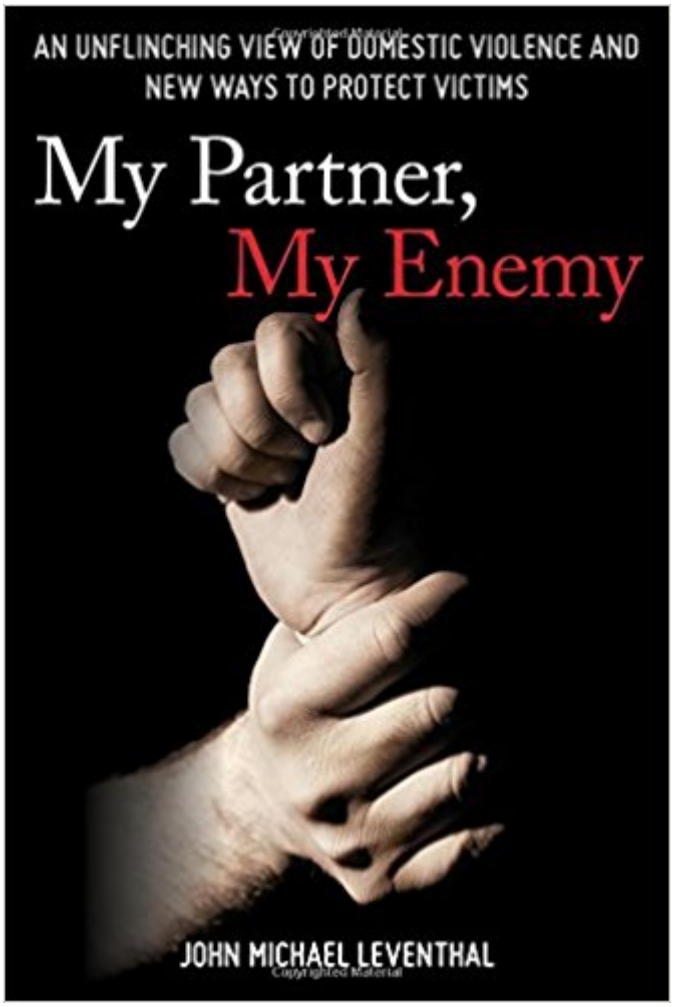
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My Partner, My Enemy: An Unflinching View Of Domestic Violence And New Ways To Protect Victims



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Synopsis

The problem of domestic violence and partner abuse knows no bounds, can affect anyone, and when kept silent and in the dark can become deadly. Hon. John Leventhal presided over the Brooklyn Felony Domestic Violence Court, the first felony domestic violence part in the nation, since it opened in June 1996 until he was elevated to the appellate court January 2008. While domestic violence has greater social and legal visibility today then it did in the past, the problem still remains a massive and ongoing crisis. My Partner, My Enemy brings truth and reality to a matter that desperately needs to be addressed. So how do we help reduce and eliminate intimate partner abuse, especially when the public knows so little and much goes unreported? By exploring the severity of the problem through true case studies of violent and abusive men, and their motivations, Leventhal successfully brings to light the problem and ways to help.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As the presiding judge of the Brooklyn Domestic Violence Court (the first of its kind in the nation when it opened in 1996), author Leventhal certainly knows his stuff. Startling statistics immediately draw readers inÃ¢â ¬â •a woman is beaten by her domestic partner every 15 seconds in the U.S., accounting for at least four million reported incidents against women every year. Domestic violence is a crime 'committed across all strata of the population,' and certainly the cases presented by Leventhal reflect that. This is an important book in its field. . . . ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s clear that books like this are needed to raise awareness. (Publishers Weekly)Leventhal's wisdom on the

subject [presented in his book My Partner, My Enemy: An Unflinching View of Domestic Violence and New Ways to Protect Victims], is available to a new generation of domestic violence judges and practitioners. And wise he is....The details in these stories initially seem overwhelming.... But those thoughts quickly pass because it is the details of repeated battering incidents, with their escalating and sickening level of violence that gives the book its strength. (New York Law Journal)Justice Leventhal has brought the reader into his courtroom and exposed us to the true life tales of people at a most difficult time of their life. It is story after story of domestic brutality whose existence we should all be are of, and who better to tell it than the judge who first witnessed it all and had to make the tough decision for almost 12 years? Case after case is recounted in sufficient detail to understand how difficult it must be to administer justice in such a court.... These stories will hold your attention and arouse your sympathy, especially when there may not always be a happy ending.... This book is a quick but disquieting read and is recommended to lawyers even if this is not their field of practice. (NYSBA One on One)After seven-plus decades as a female and twenty five-plus years a judge (fifteen of them Chief Judge) of a court system that annually sees thousands of domestic violence cases, I am astounded that My Partner, My Enemy by Judge John Leventhal should have been such a gripping, emotional, heart-wrenching education in the scourge of domestic violence. Yes, the statistics are impressive, but there is no substitute for actually meeting the participants Ã¢â ¬â œ victims, batterers, families Ã¢â ¬â œ who Judge Leventhal powerfully brings to life as he tells a wide variety of tragic stories. They give true meaning to the gratitude we feel for whatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s been accomplished, and the genuine urgency for us all to do much more. The answer to Ã¢â ¬ËœWhatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s the solution?Ã¢â ¬â„¢ begins with Ã¢â ¬ËœRead this book.Ã¢â ¬â„¢ (Judith S. Kaye, Former Chief Judge of the State of New York)My Partner, My Enemy is a very important book. As far as I know, Justice Leventhal is the first Judge to share his experience deciding domestic violence cases, and his insights and eyewitness accounts are gripping and important. Also very significant is the set of recommendations Leventhal makes for change in addressing this so-serious and so-difficult problem. It is also heartening to see more and more influential male voices speaking up for gender justice and against violence against women, and feminism should welcome such advocates. (Naomi Wolf, Phd, co-founder of The Woodhull Institute for Ethical Leadership, noted feminist and bestselling author of The Beauty Myth and The End of America)Judge Leventhal has not only written a timely and important book, but it's also a page-turning true crime thriller. The well-written tales he tells are utterly compelling and all the more chilling because they are true. This is a gritty, hard-driving book that kept me up reading well into the night. I couldn't put it down. (Howard Blum, NY Times bestselling author of American

Lightning and Dark Invasion)My Partner, My Enemy is a painful read but it is a must read for anyone wanting to understand the devastating reality of domestic violence. My Partner, My Enemy captures graphically the terror, pain, and humiliation inflicted upon families by the ravages of violence. Having spent much of my career working to reform the justice systemÃ¢â ¬â„¢s response to domestic and sexual violence, I am accustomed to hearing these questions: Why didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t she leave? Why didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t she seek legal protection? What in the world goes through the mind of a batterer? Justice LeventhalÃ¢â ¬â„¢s book helps to answer these questions by sharing stories of the real-life drama which played out every day in his courtroom and, tragically, in families across America. (Bonnie J. Campbell, Former Iowa Attorney General and First Director of the Office on Violence Against Women of the U.S. Department of Justice)My Partner, My Enemy is an important and thoughtful book. Justice John Leventhal is a deeply caring judge who handled many domestic violence cases in a specialized court at the trial level in New York. His commitment to and concern with the complex issues of domestic violence is impressive. This book is an especially useful read for other judges who handle domestic violence cases. (Elizabeth M. Schneider, Rose L. Hoffer Professor of Law, Brooklyn Law School; author of Battered Women and Feminist Lawmaking (2000), co-author of Domestic Violence and the Law: Theory and Practice (2013))As a co-founder of the NYS Coalition against Domestic Violence and the founding director of the first Ã¢â ¬Ëœbatterer programÃ¢â ¬â„¢ in New York State, I love this powerful, truth telling book. Judge John Leventhal exposes case after case of the brutality and torture of intimate partners, perpetrated by domestic violence offenders who have appeared in his court. He does not embellish. He simply writes it as it was, in a manner that is remarkably readable and deeply impactful. The horror of these felony cases clarifies how far we have come and, at the same time, how much further we must go. I see this new book as a must read for judges and advocates alike, as well as for everyone else who wants an educated vision of what it will take to bring an end to the epidemic of domestic violence. (Phyllis B. Frank, Co-Director, Training Institute, NY Model for Batterer Programs)

Hon. John Michael Leventhal, Associate Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department from 2008 to the present. Justice Leventhal was first elected to the Supreme Court, Second Judicial District in November 1994 and re-elected in 2008, during which time he presided over the nationÃ¢â ¬â„¢s first felony Domestic Violence Court. Prior to his election to the bench, Justice Leventhal was in private practice from 1982 until 1994 specializing in criminal and civil litigation and appeals. Justice Leventhal is a frequent lecturer on evidence, domestic violence, elder abuse, guardianship and other topics before Bar Associations, law schools, civic

groups, court administrators and governmental agencies. He has been given the New York State Bar's Annual Vincent E. Doyle, Jr. Award for Outstanding Judicial Contribution in the Criminal Justice System (2017), Brooklyn Bar AssociationÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Annual Award For Outstanding Achievement in the Science of Jurisprudence and Public Service (2015), the Brooklyn Law School Alumni of the Year Award (2009), the Distinguished Achievement Medal from the New York State Free and Accepted Masons (2008), the Brooklyn WomenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Bar Association Beatrice M. Judge Recognition Award (2008) for outstanding service to the women of the Bar, to the community and the law, the New York Board of Rabbis and Dayenu Voices of Valor Elijah Award (2008) for male leadership in ending Domestic Violence, and the National College of District Attorneys Stephen L. Von Riesen Lecturer of Merit Award (2008) in recognition of exceptional service in the continuing professional education of all individuals who work on behalf of domestic violence survivors, their families and our communities. Justice Leventhal has authored or co-authored twenty-three articles relating to criminal and civil law. His work as a judge dealing with domestic violence cases has been featured in a number of newspaper and magazine articles including a profile in Public Lives of the New York Times on April 25, 2001 as well as on MSNBC.

What an awesome book. My girlfriend was a victim of domestic violence with her now ex- (and deceased husband). This eye opening book does reveal some little known facts about the abusers and other statistics. I always knew a restraining order was nothing but a piece of paper! I’m grateful that she had the resources to stop him before she became the deceased, otherwise I’d have never met this wonderful woman.

A VERY telling and surprising collection of stories that evoke strong emotions across a spectrum of emotions. It’s like sitting in Judge Leventhal’s courtroom collecting stories for a decade but at a fast-forwarded pace. Totally engaging

I found this book both fascinating and disturbing. The incidents of domestic violence that occurred were shocking. It’s sad at how common it seems

Judge Leventhal’s book is an important contribution to the discussion on domestic violence. It is thoughtful and well-written. Providing an insightful analysis, he not only offers in-depth statistics, but also describes the stories beyond the numbers. It is a must read for anyone interested in learning about the subject of domestic violence.

John Leventhal’s book is nothing more than a propaganda piece for the domestic violence industry. Yes, that’s right. It’s an industry, where huge amounts of monies are made from unsuspecting defendant’s who are goaded into domestic violence by their partners, who are just as violent, and then are falsely accused of violating restraining orders on an anonymous or fraudulent phone call to police. And, let’s not forget about the Federal funding, from the unconstitutionally sounding "Violence Against Women Act" (VAWA) involved in giving the States the financial incentive to prosecute domestic violence--whether true or false cases. The book is a case study on how the system violates the rights of the male defendant, who may have done nothing more than talked about the children to the other spouse; and most male defendants are not given information on what to do when hit with a domestic violence restraining order. The book leaves out an important part about domestic violence being a 2-way street. Scholarly and academic studies show that almost one-half of domestic violence victims are men. But, they get no help from the courts, domestic violence programs, or any gov’t funding to set up shelters. It’s a one-sided law being used to perpetrate the stealing of money from taxpayers and unsuspecting litigants who are subjected to the unlawful tactic of a false and/or fraudulent domestic violence allegation by usually the female party, in order to obtain unlawful advantage in divorce, child custody, and financial matters in divorce or relational matters. What the judge left out is the fact that it costs taxpayers over $25 BILLION per year in funding the state prosecution of false and fraudulent domestic violence matters. For a better analysis of studies and statistics one should go to the website for RADAR, [...] (Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting). There, the public will find the real information needed to address the domestic violence problem of false and fraudulent allegations and that males are victims at almost the same rate as women.

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