

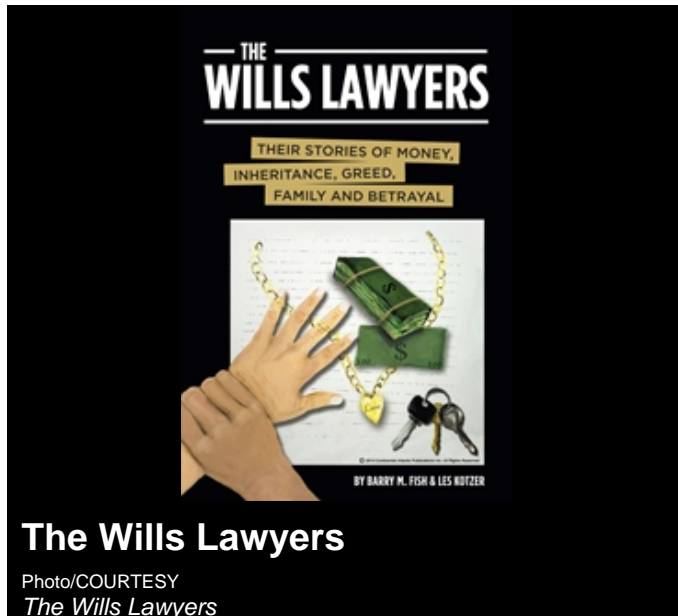
North York lawyer Barry Fish releases fourth book

Dominik Kurek
North York Mirror

North York resident and lawyer Barry M. Fish has a story to tell – well, 80 to be exact.

The 35-year resident of the Bathurst Manor neighbourhood has penned his fourth book with his partner Les Kotzer, which features real-life stories of families and their struggles and betrayals to get at their inheritance, each one witnessed by the law pair. There are also stories that show kindness, compassion and generosity.

“We’re the people in the trenches, on the point, of what happens after people pass away,” Fish said, whose law firm is in Thornhill. “I think these stories bring forward some of the wellsprings of goodwill, some of the nastiest aspects of human nature and many things in between.”



There are 79 true stories in *The Wills Lawyers: Their Stories of Money, Inheritance, Greed, Family and Betrayal*, each one altered so that it can't be traced back to its participants. The 80th is a plea from the two lawyers, asking readers to review their wills, which can help sort out the mess that could happen in a family after a person dies.

Fish pleads with people to make sure they leave nothing to chance when they die and have a will that is accurate and up-to-date and addresses their life's situation.

He harkens back to the scrap between family members for the estate left behind by Robin Williams and asks people not to put their loved ones through the same situation.

“I feel like Marty McFly,” Fish said, referring to the character from the *Back to the Future* films.

“This morning I sat with a couple and my secretary to witness their wills... Three days ago, I'm dealing with an estate scrap where I also see a will that was signed in 1987. You realize how short life is. We don't live 700 years. When you come to the table and put down your signature on whatever is going to happen after you're gone, that is very, very serious.”

Death is also not the only time when these problems can spring up. There are other circumstances in life – accidents, illnesses and much more – that can pit a family against itself.

A paperback copy of the book costs \$18.95. A digital download costs \$9.99 and for a limited time comes bundled at that price with *The Family Fight... Planning to Avoid It*, an earlier book by Fish and Kotzer.

The *Wills Lawyers* is available at www.thewillslawyers.com