

THE WILLS LAWYERS: THEIR STORIES OF:
Money, inheritance, greed, family and... BETRAYAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE FAMILY FIGHT SONG.....09

INTRODUCTION.....10

1. TAKING DAD FOR A RIDE.....13

2. THE HEIR CUTS.....14

3. A FRANK DISCUSSION.....15

4. THE SACRED PROMISE.....17

5. THE HUG FACTOR.....20

6. THE BANK OF MOM & DAD.....21

7. IT'S MY MONEY NOW.....22

8. MY BROTHER, THE CON MAN.....25

9. UNCLE MO'S DOUGH.....27

10. GOIN' OUT IN STYLE.....29

11. WAITING FOR THOSE WORDS.....30

12. HOME.....32

13. A RAGING EXECUTRIX.....34

14. MR. INDISPENSABLE.....36

15. HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?.....37

16. HOW FAR CAN A PERSON GO?.....39

17. THE MONEY HOARDER.....40

18. GETTING REALLY, REALLY OLD.....43

19. DEVALUING MOM'S LIFE.....45

20. I FOUGHT BACK.....47

21. WHAT SHE GAVE UP TO SAVE TAX.....49

22. SHOES IN THE HALL OF LES' HOME.....50

23. UN-WILL-ING.....51

24. THE KNIFE IN DAD'S HEART.....53

25. LEAVING THE 1970'S.....54

26. TRYING TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION.....57

27. THE FIRST WIFE.....	58
28. I LOVE YOU ALL.....	59
29. FROM THE MOUTH OF BABES.....	60
30. HE CAN SEE FOREVER.....	61
31. THE BROKEN MAN.....	62
32. THOUGHTS ABOUT LIFE AND MONEY FROM INSIDE OUR WORLD.....	66
33. IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING.....	69
34. IMPORTANT BUSINESS.....	71
35. WITH A COLD HAND.....	72
36. WHAT SAM DIDN'T SEE.....	75
37. WE'LL TALK TOMORROW.....	76
38. IN CASE.....	79
39. THE CONFESSION.....	80
40. THE TREASURE.....	83
41. THE WISH.....	87
42. A WILL AS A WEAPON.....	88
43. YOU CAN'T TELL A BOOK BY ITS COVER.....	89
44. MOTHER AND CHILD.....	92
45. THE ITEMIZER.....	93
46. I HEARD MY MOTHER'S WORDS.....	95
47. THE COMPANY MAN.....	97
48. THE BEST MACHINE IN THE GYM.....	98
49. THE BAGGAGE HANDLER.....	99
50. THE COUSINS.....	101
51. THE HOSPITAL VISIT.....	102
52. THE CASH COWS.....	103
53. HAVE YOU TOLD YOUR CHILDREN.....	106
54. FOUND MONEY.....	109
55. CAN I HAVE YOUR PHONE NUMBER.....	110

THE WILLS LAWYERS: THEIR STORIES OF:
Money, inheritance, greed, family and... BETRAYAL

56. HIS LAST WISH..... 111

57. AFTER THE FIGHT (ONE): GOOD-BYE!..... 112

58. AFTER THE FIGHT (TWO): THE PAYBACK..... 113

59. AFTER THE FIGHT (THREE): THE TIGER..... 116

60. ON A SAD NOTE..... 116

61. MOM'S GRAND-STRANGERS..... 119

62. CRUEL SISTER..... 124

63. A SELFISH COMMENT..... 125

64. THE CARE-GIVING CONTRACT..... 125

65. THE PLANNER'S NUGGETS..... 126

66. THE TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY WILL..... 126

67. OUR LITTLE SECRET..... 128

68. LOOSE LIPS..... 130

69. THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN..... 131

70. THE BALLET DANCER..... 133

71. INHERITANCE GUILT..... 135

72. HIS PEN..... 139

73. THE TALKING DOG..... 139

74. PURE GREED..... 141

75. I HOPE SHE DIES WITHOUT A WILL..... 143

76. HOW NOT TO MARRY MONEY 144

77. HOW MUCH IS A PHONE CALL WORTH..... 147

78. THE CODE..... 149

79. MY FAMILY HARDWARE STORE...ITS LEGACY..... 150

80. POST SCRIPT: THE IMPORTANCE OF REVIEWING YOUR WILL..... 152

 YOU MADE THE DIFFERENCE (A LYRIC)..... 161

 CANDLES ON THE CAKE (A LYRIC)..... 162

INTRODUCTION

We hope you will enjoy reading this book. Some of the stories may shock you; some may make you angry; others may touch your heart; and, some of the stories may make you smile or even laugh. We have co-authored three other books, entitled *The Family Fight*, *The Family War* (with Jordan Atin, a certified specialist in estates and trusts law) and, *Where There's an Inheritance*. In each of these books, you will find many stories from inside our world of working with people as they prepare their wills, execute the wills of others, and, navigate through the myriad of complications involving money, inheritance, greed, family, and betrayal. Our previous books have been featured in major media outlets across North America, and each book has drawn enthusiastic response from the public at large. We have written this fourth book to address innumerable requests for even more stories from our world.

It appears to us that a large segment of the public wants a glimpse into the world of wills and estates. This is a world that few people have a chance to view from a close perspective. We have repeatedly been told that we get to see the very best and the very worst of humankind. True enough, we have been fortunate to witness the best in people. Some of the touching stories in this book reflect deep love, gentle kindness, and self-less generosity. But when it comes to the other extreme of humankind, some of the stories in this book are dredged from the depths of that world, fuelled by money, family discord, greed, and betrayal.

The inheritance-related stories you will read in this book are based on our many and collective years in the field of wills and estates. Our personal experiences have been varied. We have met many individuals in many walks of life who have had interesting and important stories to tell. We have listened intently to each of them. Similarly, we have lent a sensitive ear to participants at our seminars, callers on our TV and radio shows, and other professionals in the field of wills and estates who we have met. Each person, in his or her own way, contributed to our ability to put these stories in writing.

Some of the stories in our book are based on situations where we are obliged to respect lawyer-client confidentiality. Wherever a story in our book makes reference to a client who has come to our office, we have deliberately removed all

of the detail which is traceable to any of the parties involved, or their families, their businesses, or their personal affairs. Nothing in our book can be traced directly or indirectly to any client of ours. We have, where necessary, varied the information involved so that no description of what you will read in this book can lead to the identity of any person. In all of our stories, what we intend to share with the reader is the emotional impact of the situations they each have brought before us. Moments frozen in time have been preserved, and it is around these precious and fleeting experiences that the stories have been compiled. If there is one phrase to express the intention of our book, it is that the reader benefit in his or her own life by the lessons to be learned in reading these stories.

Finally, what we wish to share with you is this: while rules of protocol and professionalism may restrain the hand that writes and the lips that speak, nothing can restrain what lies in the hearts of those who have a message that yearns to be set free. Many of these stories have had a permanent impact on us, and we believe that they will have an impact on you.

