

## Marcum & Kliegman LLP & Donald Westlake

DONALD WESTLAKE is a very busy man. In fact, he's really four busy men. Also known by his pen names Richard Stark, Tucker Coe, and Edwin West, Mr. Westlake is the author of more than 70 published and acclaimed mystery novels — many of which have been developed into films. His wife, Abby, is also a published writer, and between them they have seven children.

With their children of “drinking age, and therefore on their own,” as Donald puts it, Donald and Abby have retreated to a quiet ex-farm in upstate

New York for the past decade. While the Westlakes own another residence, the home upstate “is near nothing, which is the point,”

says Mr. Westlake. The move was not so much to retire (as is evidenced by Mr. Westlake's four new books that came out within the last year), as much as it was to just get away. However, it is an interesting testament to the level of financial security that the Westlakes have achieved. Donald attributes much of that stability to Jeffrey Weiner and Marcum & Kliegman LLP.

Since the 1960s, Mr. Westlake has been working hard at his typewriter spinning clever “who dunnits.” All that writing left little time to manage the business aspects of his career. In the 1970s, he lamented about this to his good friend, (the late) Robert Ludlum, who in turn told Don to get himself an accountant. Robert told Donald that “an accountant saves your life.” This sounded good to Donald, because although he was earning a substantial income, he was struggling to make ends meet.

Robert Ludlum arranged a meeting between his accountant Ed Marcum and

Donald. Ed agreed to help Donald get his finances in order. After working together for some time, Ed introduced Donald to Jeffrey Weiner in 1985 — then a bright young accountant in his twenties — to work along side.


Nearly twenty years later, Donald and Jeffrey have both come a long way. Today, Jeffrey is the Managing Partner of Marcum & Kliegman LLP, and Donald is an internationally recognized author.

In fact, just last month, the *Private Eye Writers of America* presented Mr. Westlake with its *Shamus Award for Lifetime Achievement*.

As Donald's career flourished, his financial situation became more complex. Over the years, Jeffrey has worked with Mr.

Westlake to help him move to beyond “making ends meet” to establish a financial cushion for him and his family. Jeffrey has helped the Westlakes with property purchases, tax compliance, investments, and general financial issues.

Today, Marcum & Kliegman helps Donald and Abby with retirement planning, some bill paying, and ensuring ongoing financial stability.

Donald warmly reflects on his relationship with the firm with this anecdote: “Several years ago at a holiday party, I saw a Marcum & Kliegman banner that promised clients “NO SURPRISES,” meaning that clients were always kept informed. I have found this to be true, though I chuckled when I realized that Marcum & Kliegman and I were in exact opposite fields. As a mystery writer, I'm only successful if there are surprises! As a client of the firm, I'm glad I haven't been surprised. 



### OUT IN BOOKSTORES:

***Nobody Runs Forever***  
(Richard Stark)  
***Thieves' Dozen***  
***The Road to Ruin***  
***Money for Nothing***

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