



JANE WESMAN PUBLIC RELATIONS, INC.

P. O. Box 20153, New York, NY 10011 Tel 212.620.4080

www.wesmanpr.com

For Immediate Release

LAW AND ADDICTION

By Mike Papantonio

Publisher: Waterside Productions

Publication Date: April 2019

Price: \$24.95/hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-939116-46-8 hardcover

Contact: Jane Wesman

jane@wesmanpr.com

212-620-4080 x11or

Andrea J. Stein

andrea@wesmanpr.com

212-620-4080 x15

“a fictional tour de force . . . Bravo!”

– Alan Russell, bestselling author of *Burning Man* and *Guardians of the Night*

Greedy Drug Executives. Corrupt County Officials. Violent Kidnappers.

**Can A Rookie Lawyer And His Tough-As-Nails Mentor
Bring Down The Villians Who Opened Pandora’s Box In The
Name Of Corporate Profits?**

**Novelist Mike Papantonio Pulls Back The Curtain On
America’s Deadly Opioid Epidemic In His Spellbinding Thriller
LAW AND ADDICTION**

Mike Papantonio is a novelist who knows his material only too well. One of America’s top plaintiff’s lawyers, Pap – as he’s called by friends and colleagues – has taken on the tobacco companies, the automotive industry, and more. His new legal thriller, **LAW AND ADDICTION** (Waterside Productions; April 2019), is based on his experiences fighting Big Pharma on behalf of hundreds of American communities devastated by the opioid crisis.

As the book opens, readers meet Jake Rutledge a week before his law school graduation. Jake is shattered. His fraternal twin, Blake, has died suddenly of a drug overdose. Devastated by the loss, Jake returns to his hometown of Oakley, West Virginia to discover that Blake was not the only one addicted to opioid pain killers. The entire region has been ravished by an epidemic insidiously planned and carried out by America’s most powerful pharmaceutical companies.

Continued

LAW AND ADDICTION/Page Two

Still wet-behind-the-ears, the newly-minted lawyer is determined to seek justice not only for Blake, but for all the victims of Big Pharma's greed. He quickly discovers, though, that he can't do it alone. The drug companies' tentacles reach far and deep. The only hope is to entice a seasoned pro like the indomitable Nicholas "Deke" Deketomis to join the battle. A partner at one of the country's most powerful law firms, Deke's "as tough as a two-dollar steak" and well-known for his winning tactics against corporate wrong-doers. With just enough persistence, Jake coaxes Deke to visit Oakley to see first-hand why the once thriving town is now called Zombieville. Deke is overwhelmed by the devastation and agrees to join forces with Jake.

And that's when the real heat begins. Death threats, bribes, unlawful property seizure schemes – all connected to the massive distribution of both legal and illegal drugs. Everyone is impacted from the highest levels of corporate America to corrupt local officials to their lackeys and hapless victims. The complexity of the schemes is overwhelming.

But there is hope. Working tirelessly, the lawyers begin to uncover the truth. Along the way, Jake falls for a local woman, a former high school classmate who's succumbed to the power of opioids. With his support, she weans herself off the drugs and the future looks bright – until Jake suddenly disappears. Has he abandoned her and his crusade? Can the case against the drug distributors move forward without him? Will Oakley and its residents survive? Mike Papantonio has created a fast-paced thriller that will keep readers glued to the page. **LAW AND ADDICTION** is real drama about real life – a book that reveals the truth through expert story-telling.

About The Author

Mike Papantonio is a crusader who uses fiction to entertain and inform readers about some of the most pressing issues of our times. In each of his legal thrillers – from *Law and Disorder* to *Law and Vengeance*, and now **LAW AND ADDICTION** – he lays bare the conspiracies and white-collar crimes that hurt ordinary Americans. A senior partner at Levin Papantonio, he's taken on Big Pharma, tobacco companies, and the automobile industry, among others. One of the youngest trial lawyers to have been inducted into the Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame, Papantonio is also a distinguished media presence as one of the hosts of the syndicated *Ring of Fire* radio show and as the host of *American Lawyer* on RT America network. A skilled musician and athlete, Papantonio is based in Pensacola, Florida. To learn more, visit: www.mikepapantonio.com