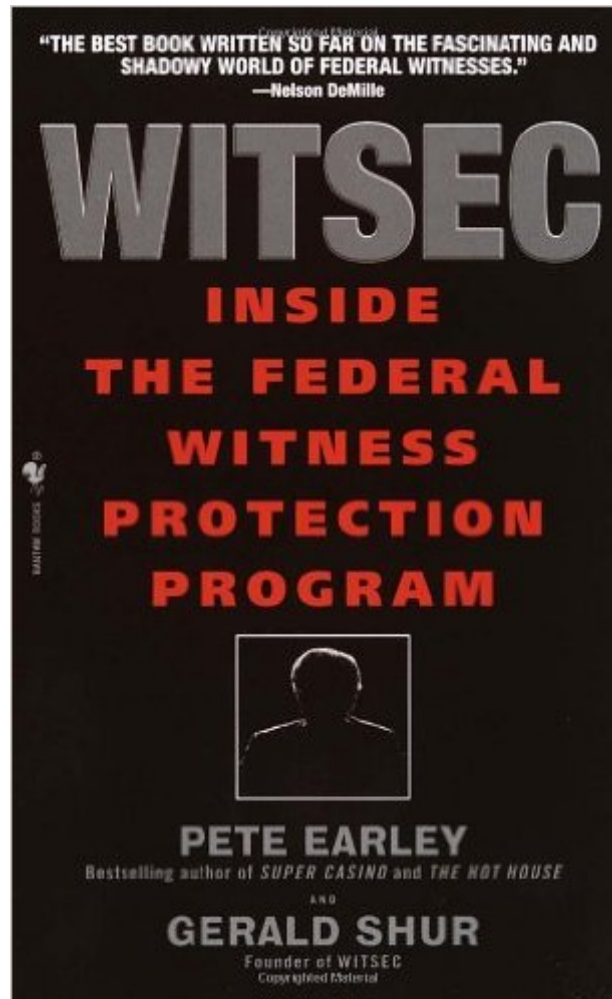


The book was found

Witsec: Inside The Federal Witness Protection Program



Synopsis

For decades no law enforcement program has been as cloaked in controversy and mystery as the Federal Witness Protection Program. Now, for the first time, Gerald Shur, the man credited with the creation of WITSEC, teams with acclaimed investigative journalist Pete Earley to tell the inside story of turncoats, crime-fighters, killers, and ordinary human beings caught up in a life-and-death game of deception in the name of justice.

WITSEC: Inside the Federal Witness Protection Program

When the government was losing the war on organized crime in the early 1960s, Gerald Shur, a young attorney in the Justice Department's Organized Crime and Racketeering Section, urged the department to entice mobsters into breaking their code of silence with promises of protection and relocation. But as high-ranking mob figures came into the program, Shur discovered that keeping his witnesses alive in the face of death threats involved more than eradicating old identities and creating new ones. It also meant cutting off families from their pasts and giving new identities to wives and children, as well as to mob girlfriends and mistresses. It meant getting late-night phone calls from protected witnesses unable to cope with their new lives. It meant arranging funerals, providing financial support, and in one instance even helping a mobster's wife get breast implants. And all too often it meant odds that a protected witness would return to what he knew best—crime.

In this book Shur gives a you-are-there account of infamous witnesses, from Joseph Valachi to "Sammy the Bull" Gravano to "Fat Vinnie" Teresa, of the lengths the program goes to to keep its charges safe, and of cases that went very wrong and occasionally even protected those who went on to kill again. He describes the agony endured by innocent people who found themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time and ended up in a program tailored to criminals. And along with Shur's war stories, WITSEC draws on the haunting words of one mob wife, who vividly describes her life of lies, secrecy, and loss inside the program. A powerful true story of the inner workings of one of the most effective and controversial weapons in the war against organized crime and the inner workings of organized crime itself—and more recently against Colombian drug dealers, outlaw motorcycle gang members, white-collar con men, and international terrorists—this book takes us into a tense, dangerous twilight world carefully hidden in plain sight: where the family living next door might not be who they say they are. . .

Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: Bantam (April 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0553582437

ISBN-13: 978-0553582437

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 1 x 6.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (51 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #104,014 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in [Books > Law > Rules & Procedures > Witnesses](#) #97 in [Books > Textbooks > Law > Criminal Law](#) #406 in [Books > Law > Criminal Law](#)

Customer Reviews

I found WITSEC to be fascinating from cover to cover. Gerald Shur was one of the original founders of the federal Witness Protection Program. For many years, he was the lynchpin in bringing increasing levels of organization and professionalism to a once informal "make it up as you go along" experimental program. Now retired and finally free to give an insider's view of the program and its successes and failures, Gerald Shur offers a sometimes captivatingly honest and direct chronicle of the challenges and growing pains the program went through over the years. He is able to give an honest appraisal of the good decisions and successes the program has had, and even more admirable, he is able to state and own the program's shortcomings and outright failures. I admire the fact that Shur has been able to step aside from this work that he lived and breathed for so many years and offer a fairly objective story of the program. At one point in the book, a relocated witnesses' wife tells her own personal story. It is a touching and sad story of a woman who had to abandon herself without notice and chronicles the 25 years after she was first relocated. I cannot imagine, even after having read this book, how difficult it must be to leave one's entire identity behind in order to "become someone completely new" -- birth history, family, origins, family support systems, and familiar surroundings -- all in order to help save a partner's life or one's own! While some have been extremely critical of the purpose of the witness protection program over the years, this is no glamorous escape for criminals who would be otherwise incarcerated for their entire lives.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Witsec: Inside the Federal Witness Protection Program
The Constitutional Common-Law Trust : Liability Protection Asset Protection Income Protection
Nematode Pathogenesis of Insects and Other Pests: Ecology and Applied Technologies for Sustainable Plant and Crop Protection
(Sustainability in Plant and Crop Protection)
The Fine Art of Executive Protection: Handbook for the Executive Protection Officer
Guidelines for Initiating Events and Independent Protection Layers in

Layer of Protection Analysis 2015 Federal Circuit Yearbook: Patent Law Developments in the Federal Circuit The Federal Courts and The Federal System (University Casebook Series) Process Simulation Using WITNESS Listening to Killers: Lessons Learned from My Twenty Years as a Psychological Expert Witness in Murder Cases The Huron-Wendat Feast of the Dead: Indian-European Encounters in Early North America (Witness to History) The Huron-Wendat Feast of the Dead (Witness to History) A Guide to Forensic Testimony: The Art and Practice of Presenting Testimony As An Expert Technical Witness Slaves, Soldiers and Saints: Two Hundred Years of Baptist Witness in Trinidad: 1816-2016 Salvador Witness: The Life and Calling of Jean Donovan Silent Witness: The Karla Brown Murder Case Witness Preparation: A manual for attorneys Witness to the Revolution: Radicals, Resisters, Vets, Hippies, and the Year America Lost Its Mind and Found Its Soul Bearing Witness: Violence and Collective Responsibility Witness Guide for Deposition or Court (CustodySource Books Book 2) Manual of Confidential Deposition Instructions for the Expert Witness

[Dmca](#)