



Serve and Protect

Sheldon Siegel

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It starts with a routine traffic stop. Moments later, a young man is killed by a rookie cop. Self-defense or murder? As San Francisco descends into riots and chaos, it's up to Mike Daley and Rosie Fernandez to prove that the cop is innocent. Or is he?

In the ninth installment of New York Times bestselling author Sheldon Siegel's iconic San Francisco series, ex-spouses Mike Daley and Rosie Fernandez have come a long way from their days as small-time defense attorneys. No longer working in a converted martial arts studio above a Chinese restaurant on the earthy side of Mission Street, Rosie is now San Francisco's Public Defender, and Mike is the head of the Felony Division. Their daughter is in college. Their son is in middle school. For the first time in years, there is a semblance of order in their lives.

It doesn't last long.

Johnny Bacigalupi is a rookie police officer and fourth-generation cop who graduated at the top of his class at St. Ignatius High, USF, and the Police Academy. His father is an assistant chief. He's also Mike's godson.

On a rainy night, Johnny and his partner pull over a Honda with a broken tail light. Juwon Jones has an outstanding probation violation. When asked to exit his car, Jones bangs the door into Johnny and flees. Johnny corners Jones in a nearby parking lot, where Jones raises his hands. Shots ring out and Jones is dead. Was it a rookie mistake? Self-defense?

A gun is found under the body—did it belong to Jones? Was it planted? No weapon is visible in footage from Johnny's body cam or video taken by other officers. Yet Johnny and the other cops insist that Johnny acted in self-defense. The evidence suggests otherwise. Rioters are demanding justice. The D.A. charges Johnny with first-degree murder.

Meanwhile, San Francisco is besieged. Local TV, cable news, Twitter, and social media explode. Police supporters clash with Black Lives Matter. White supremacists come to San Francisco looking for trouble—and find it.

Mike and Rosie avoid the fray until Johnny's family asks Mike to represent his godson. Despite Rosie's reservations, Mike takes a leave of absence and represents Johnny, with help from his former-cop-turned-private-investigator brother, Pete.

Mike, Rosie, and Pete face their biggest challenge yet in a high-stakes case where San Francisco's streets turn violent.

An intricate plot, likeable characters, powerful suspense, and a touch of humor are Sheldon Siegel's hallmarks. In *SERVE AND PROTECT*, readers will discover once again why Mike Daley and Rosie Fernandez have been called two of the most compelling and beloved characters in contemporary crime fiction.

SERVE AND PROTECT is the ninth book in the legal thriller series featuring Mike Daley & Rosie Fernandez.

Serve and Protect Details

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Author : Sheldon Siegel

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From Reader Review Serve and Protect for online ebook

Stephanie Stevenson says

Another great story!

I have read all the books in this series and each one is better than the previous one. They are listed as legal thrillers but there is much more to the stories. Human nature both good and not so good are ever present. The main characters also share an unconventional but her sweet love

Rich says

Another good novel in the series. This novel helped end my reading slump of very bad novels at best. I do give this novel a soft 4 for several reasons. One I thought the ending was not as strong as other novels in the series. I do feel the ending was a bit of a stretch. I also hope to see him in an actual trial and not get everything solved once again in a prelim-gee whiz what a surprise. I did enjoy reading about the characters and also enjoyed reading about their continued interactions with each other. I do feel that it that it was not the strongest novel in the series but I will read the next one with no problems. I say give this novel a spin.

Tulay says

Very good legal thriller.

Very enjoyable series. Mike has a big and close family, his biggest support and understanding comes from his ex-wife Rosie. Mike has to defend his godson, he is accused of killing unarmed African-American. Was he really unarmed? Every body cams recording doesn't show the gun. Riots in the city pushing him take the deal and end the riots. This novel is love story, family tradition, politics, highly recommend these series.

Nancy Silk says

"Excellent Legal Thriller"

In this ninth segment, San Francisco is breaking out in riots. Rookie cop Johnny Bacigalupi has shot and killed Juwon Jones, pulled over in his car because of a broken tail light. Johnny is also Mike's godson and takes a leave of absence from his current SFPD position as head of the Felony Division. He'll be defense attorney for Johnny, that is if the judge doesn't remove him from the case. During this time, ex-wife Rosie is now a Public Defender. Their daughter is in college and son in middle school. Life is good for them until chaos breaks out because of this shooting of a black man. Awesome, intriguing, and always an exciting read from great author Sheldon Siegal.

Irma Hernandez says

Chemistry Again

I choose this rating because Sheldon does an excellent job at describing the smallest details. When the officers were in pursuit, I knew exactly where they were, I could smell the rain and the sandwiches at Subway. Sheldon put me smack in the middle of the pursuit and I enjoyed it.

Kudos again for another excellent book, my only question is: Are you almost done with #10???

Keep Roosevelt and Pete!!

Beverly Mccollum says

A first rate legal thriller. A fast-moving plot which sweeps you along. I've read all the previous novels in this series and this one doesn't disappoint. I've followed the two main characters-long/divorced but still in love lawyer/partners Mike Daley and Rosie Fernandez through many years and books. Just love their relationship. And I always appreciate the beautiful San Francisco setting. Recommend it.

Bradley L. Stout says

Current event?

Good story. Could've been taken from headlines of any newspaper in a mid to large city in America. Closer to the facts than one might imagine in today's political environment. Good job Mr Siegel.

Abbie says

Genuine page turner

Sheldon Siegel rocks! This being my first novel, I wasn't sure how wonderful the writing style would be. Can't wait to read more. The descriptions and dialogue flow so well I felt like I was there in that dark alley, soaking wet...

I never give spoiler reviews. This is a solid novel. Read for pure enjoyment. I'm off to read another.

Jody says

The story moves right along ... and before you know it, things get all wrapped up in a very satisfying ending. Love how the main characters, especially Mike and Rosie, seem more real with every new book in the series. They're really good at what they do professionally, yet they're also very human, with real feelings, strengths, frustrations, and weaknesses.

Steven A. Chase says

I enjoy Mr. Sheldon's books about Mike Daley and Rosie Fernandez. As a criminal defense lawyer, living in San Francisco, the Hall of Justice (or "850") is a familiar milieu. I require a little more sleep than Mike Daley, and I usually let my investigators do the talking with witnesses. But my hat is off to Mr. Siegel, who writes some brilliant cross-examinations, as well as excellent direct examinations by the various DA's who populate these books. This is more poignant when you consider that Mr. Siegel is a civil attorney, and probably doesn't get to court as much as we criminal practitioners.

In this book, Mike Daley represents a young cop who killed a black man after a traffic stop because of a broken tail light. Usually, the defense is attacking cops rather than soliciting them to be witnesses for their case. The real star of this book is Pete, Mike's younger brother who is a former cop, and Mike's investigator. He is the one who truly never sleeps and tirelessly works to find a witness who might have seen what happens. Investigators are the ones who allow defense attorneys to shine in court, and don't get enough credit. Mr. Siegel certainly knows the value of a good investigation.

Rosie and Mike have been divorced longer than they were married, and continue to have a complicated relationship. There are lots of strong women in this book, and I've enjoyed sharing the lives of Mike, Pete, Rosie, and the venerable homicide detective Roosevelt Johnson. These books are well written; correct on legal procedure; and have engaging and fast moving plots. If you haven't read any of these books, start at the beginning and work your way up.

Joyce says

Self defense or Murder? You decide

Siegel's books are always entertaining, informative and relevant. Each offers a bird's eye view into the inner workings of the legal system.

The recurring characters are likeable decent people with a tough job to do.

I look forward to each addition to this series.

LJ says

First Sentence: The Honorable Elizabeth McDaniel tapped her microphone, and her overflowing courtroom went silent.

Rookie cop Johnny Bacigalupi pulls over a car on a routine traffic stop. The driver flees, the cop calls for backup, and the driver is shot and killed. A gun is found under the perp. The cops declare it a justified shooting. But is it? Mike Daley is currently head of the Felony Division of the San Francisco Public Defender's Office. When the DA decides to prosecute Johnny on murder charges, Mike takes a leave of absence in order to defend his godson.

No one writes a courtroom scene better than Siegal. It is also a wonderful introduction to Mike Daley. However, no matter how serious the theme, Spiegel uses humor as a perfect balance—"If Luther's case

appeared in a Gresham novel, nobody would have believed it.” He also uses Mike’s internal narrative as a tool to provide interesting and informative information on various topics such as how California law works.

Every major city has its families with generations of cops, firemen, and lawyers, and in Mike’s case, a private investigator brother, his wife who is his boss, and a niece, a court deputy. And then, there’s Terrence “The Terminator” Love. In some ways, San Francisco is a much a character as are the people.

Seigel relates some of the City’s painful history related to Jim Jones and the Peoples’ Temple cult, as well as the issue of immigration—“I’ve been here since I was a kid. I’m a U.S. citizen.” He shows how quickly situations can escalate from anger to violence, to death. The debate as to whether to take a plea bargain for a lesser offense is strongly prevented, especially with a client who insists they are innocent—“So you think morality has a sliding scale?”

“Serve and Protect” has strong characters, interesting information about the law, excellent plot twists, and a very well-done ending that wasn’t one which could have been predicted.

SERVE AND PROTECT (Legal Thriller-Mike Daley/Rosie Fernandez-San Francisco, CA-Contemp) – VG+
Siegel, Sheldon – 9th in series
Sheldon M. Siegel, Inc. – February 2018

John Dulske says

A great series

I have read the series enjoyed all the novels. Same format, some twists and turns but enjoyable.
Ok, book one (1) it rained all the time like Daniel Silva novels. I did question it.
Now in novel nine (9) it rained on every turn of my Kindle. There we're times I had to dry it with towels, and while reading I had to wear a raincoat.

Jim says

This has been a good series but I found this particular entry to not be quite up to what I have come to expect. Not much happens over the course of the book. There is a lot of repetition of the story of the traffic stop that leads to the police shooting and also of the Q&A about why Daley is taking the case.
A new character introduction leads me to believe another book may be in the works.

Bkunkle says

First class legal thriller

I finally figured out what I really love about Sheldon Siegel's books; it's Mike Daley, his protagonist. Mike is a truly lovable guy and Siegel has really developed his character to the point that you believe that you know him well. It helps that you read his thoughts and feel his insecurity while he it's arguing his case.

The plot and poaching see excellent but none of that would matter to me if I didn't want to read about the characters, and I do. I really do.
