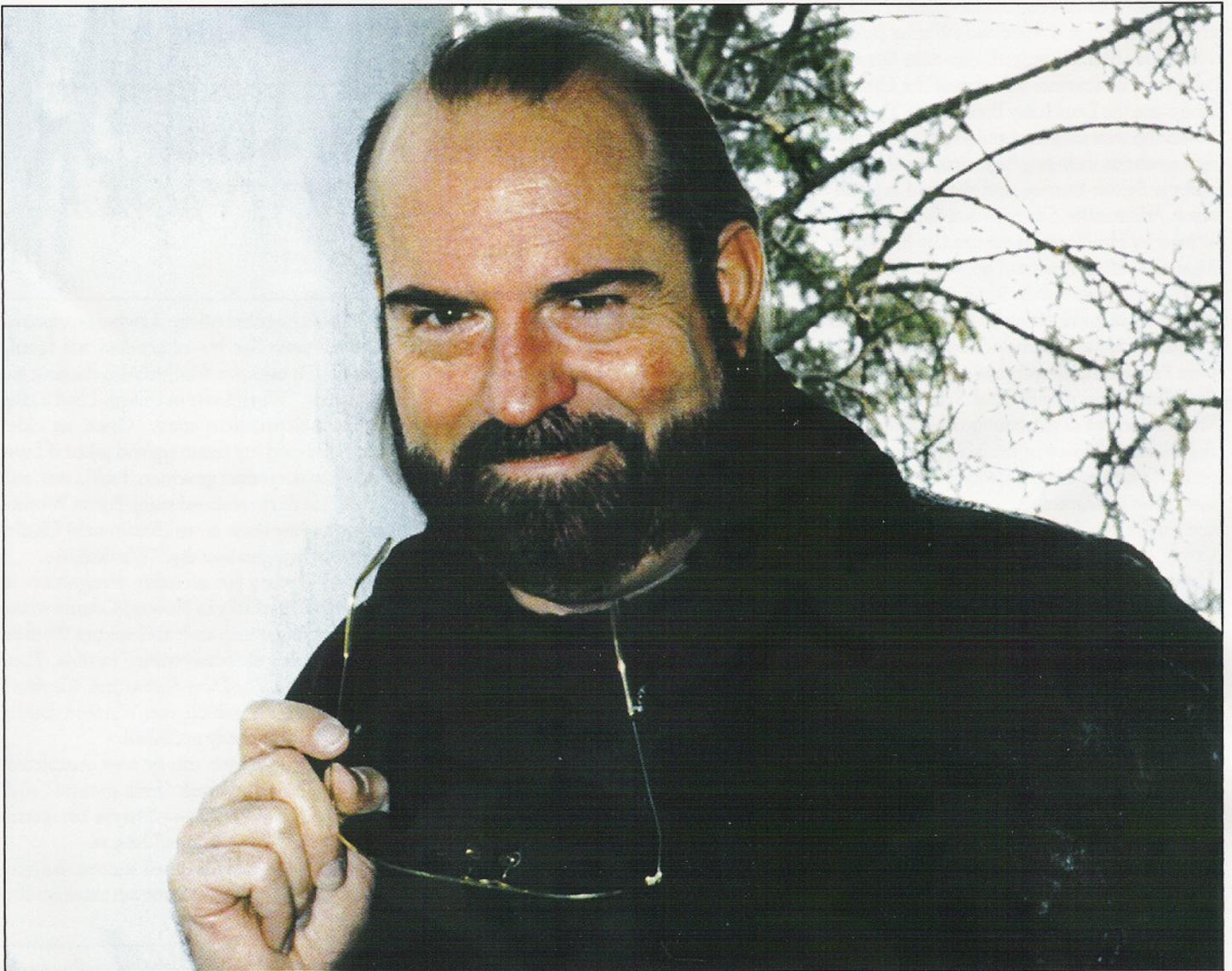


# Maryland

# B O O K S M A R T



*Gallatin Warfield III admits the main protagonist in his trilogy, Gardner Lawson, who serves as the town prosecutor, is modeled somewhat after himself. Intrigued by the physical beauty of western Maryland, he set the stage for his trilogy in a fictitious town in the western part of the state.*

PHOTO BY ERIN WARFIELD

He soared as a Maryland Air National Guard fighter pilot and Air Force captain. Later, he rose to become one of the state's leading prosecutors. Now, at age 49, he's ascending to new heights as an author.

With two novels published and a third already published in England (it's due out in the United States this summer), A. Gallatin Warfield III has made a name for himself in the world's literary circles. The Warfield name is already well known throughout Maryland. In 1662, a Warfield landed in Annapolis and began a dynasty that includes a Revolutionary War captain, a United States secretary of the treasury, a chief engineer of Japan's first railroad and a governor of Maryland (Gallatin's great uncle Edwin, who served from 1900-1904). His cousin Edwin Warfield III was adjutant general of Maryland and the family also is distantly related to Wallis Warfield Simpson, the former Duchess of Windsor.

Gallatin Warfield's books *State v. Justice* (Warner Books 1992) and *Silent Son* (Warner Books 1994) have been on regional best-seller lists and both were an alternate selection of the Literary Guild and the Doubleday Book Club. The two novels also were translated and sold in several foreign countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Japan and the British Empire, and also sold as audio tapes. Additionally, *Silent Son* (published as *Silent Witness* by Headline) was selected by England's Mystery Guild for its list of popular mysteries.

Through these novels, Warfield has incorporated his love for writing with his legal expertise.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in politics from Princeton University and a law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law, Warfield served as assistant attorney general in the criminal division of the Maryland attorney general's office. Later he became senior assistant state's attorney and chief of the Circuit Court Division for Howard County. During his years as a state's attorney, he successfully prosecuted many criminals, and he defeated attorney F. Lee Bailey in Maryland's Court of Special Appeals.

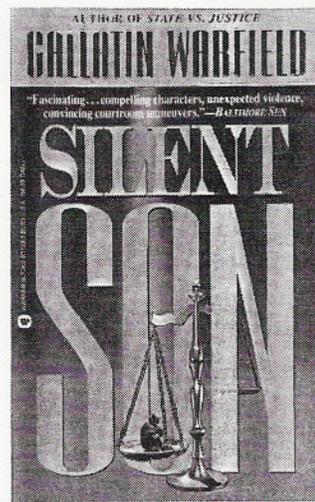
In 1989, he resigned from the state and opened a boutique-style practice in Ellicott City, where he represents his own clients and also serves as co-counsel to other

Howard County defense attorneys.

"Overall, my career in law has folded in nicely with my interest in how words come together," says Warfield, explaining that in court, he needed to present a point of view in a convincing and engaging manner that piqued jurors' interest.

These days, his words are piquing readers' interest. "Gallatin Warfield is a very talented writer with a great sense of how the law impacts on its practitioner," says Laurence Kirshbaum, president of Warner Books.

"He's excellent on the law and through his books he has educated the public about criminal procedures in an enjoyable manner," says Dwight S. Thompson, former deputy state's attorney who



estate in Woodbine. The Warfields originally received the property as a land-grant from the English.

A ninth-generation Howard Countian and father to twin 16-year-old 10th generationers — A. Gallatin IV and Erin, Warfield modeled the protagonist in his books somewhat after himself. His books describe Gardner Lawson, a ninth-generation Marylander who serves as the town prosecutor. In *State v. Justice*, Lawson explores the theme of justice during a murder case. In *Silent Son*, he delves into family relationships while preparing to prosecute another murder case. In *Raising Cain*, his newest book, Lawson switches roles from prosecutor to defense attorney in yet another murder case.

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*"Gallatin is one of the most intelligent and stylish courtroom strategists now in print," says Dick Wolf, executive producer of NBC-TV program Law & Order.*

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supervised Warfield for approximately 12 years.

The books also have piqued Hollywood's interest as they have led to potential film offers. "Gallatin is one of the most intelligent and stylish courtroom strategists now in print," says Dick Wolf, executive producer of the NBC-TV program *Law & Order*.

Interestingly, Warfield's books, which are capturing international attention, are about Marylanders living in a fictitious town in the western part of the state. "I've always been intrigued by the physical beauty in western Maryland," Warfield says, adding that he spent much time there as a child. "There's a certain mystery with the old coal mines and Native American lore out there, and I love the country atmosphere."

Although he has never lived in western Maryland, Warfield continues to enjoy a rural atmosphere while residing at the Sunny Side Farm, his family's 280-acre

Throughout the trilogy, Lawson is respected around town for his career and his family history. Throughout Warfield's life, the same has occurred. "When I was in college, I had a sales job in a department store. Once, an older customer read my name tag and asked if I was related to the former governor. I said I was, and he told me he remembered seeing Edwin Warfield riding a white horse down (Baltimore's) Charles Street on inauguration day," Warfield says.

"There's a lot of name recognition in Maryland, especially in Howard County where buildings and streets, such as Governor Warfield Parkway, carry the family name," he adds. Then there also are *The Daily Record* and *Warfield's Business Record*, which the Warfield family founded and formerly published.

With the Lawson trilogy now completed, Warfield hopes to break "fresh ground" with different kinds of novels — "maybe not strictly legal, but definitely thrillers," he says.

And with his continued success, he may introduce the Warfield name yet another area: the silver screen.

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Caryn Sagal is a frequent contributor to MARYLAND MAGAZINE.

