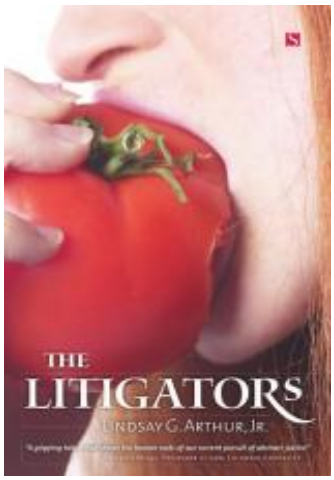
The Litigators

by Lindsay G. Arthur, Jr.



About the Book

A THRILLING NOVEL OF A COURTROOM DAVID & GOLIATH STRUGGLE

Stories of David and Goliath struggles in the courts are not new in legal thrillers; but in this story, figuring out just who is Goliath opens the reader to a discovery of unexpected truths about today?s highly litigious court system. Good versus evil, yes, but just what is the evil that is supposed to be vanquished?

A woman living near a toxic waste site that was treated with a new process using genetically engineered microbes develops a mysterious neurological illness. By chance, she meets a passionate young lawyer at a neighborhood church supper. He feels obligated to find justice for his new struggling client and in the process takes on the largest law firm in Minnesota. How far will Dillon Love go for his client if the end result of his lawsuit is to destroy the brilliant university professor who has dedicated his entire life to improving the environment? How far will Henry Holten go to defeat the graceful woman whose family and financial future is dependent upon the success of her court case? **The Litigators** is a riveting page-turner, which asks if there can be any justice for either party without infliction of a great injustice on the other. This winner-take-all legal battle brings together three tenacious lawyers and their highly worthy clients in a way that forever changes the lives of all.

Discussion Guide

1. When a lawsuit is filed, even the people who ?win? often come away with a sense that they actually lost, feeling ?I was right and had to pay all this money to prove it.? Which parties in **The Litigators** feel this way? Are they justified in their feelings? Is there any way a lawyer can measure or explain the quality and necessity of his services in this situation?

2. Which lawyers seemed to understand their client?s needs; which seemed only to be interested in the verdict, with almost any means to reach that verdict justifiable?

3. Today, lawyers set many fee arrangements, including contingency fees, as happens in **The Litigators** ; do you feel lawyers are tempted to take on a case just for the fees and not because they feel the client?s best interest is served by pursuing legal recourse in the courts? What ethical issues are raised by contingency fee arrangements? What ethical issues are raised by hourly fee agreements?

4. Civil cases between private parties still impact the general public; time is used in the courts, and decisions that have profound impact on the lives and businesses of countless people are made without their advice or consent. Do either of the lawyers involved in such cases have any responsibility to represent the greater public good in such cases? Does this happen in **The Litigators**? Should someone be responsible for striking a balance between the rights of individuals and the common right of the general public?

5. Is it too easy to file lawsuits these days? Should good faith mediation of the dispute be required before a lawsuit can be filed?

6. In **The Litigators**, both lawyers admonish their clients to have no contact with the other side. What are the pros and cons for such instructions?

7. To what extent do you think the digital age has affected the quality of justice in America? Current rules of civil procedure allow virtually unfettered and open-ended discovery. Has this altered the quality of justice? Has this inflated the cost of justice, and has it limited access to justice for those who cannot afford giant law firms?

8. As you worked through **The Litigators**, who did you think would win the case? And why do you think the author creates ambiguity about the final outcome?

Author Bio

Lindsay G. Arthur, Jr., is a well-known lawyer who has tried over 150 cases during his 35-year career. His clients have sent him throughout the United States to represent them in a wide variety of matters, particularly products liability lawsuits. He is also an entrepreneur. In 1974 he founded his current law firm, Arthur, Chapman, Kettering, Smetak, and Pikala, a highly regarded litigation firm in Minneapolis. In 1985 he founded a bio tech company that used genetic engineering to develop microorganisms the company used to degrade toxic waste.

Arthur has lectured and published extensively on a variety of legal topics. While **The Litigators** is his first novel, he has fully lived the plot it unravels, a challenging products liability case involving genetically engineered organisms. **The Litigators** is prompted by his love for the law, whose greatest virtue is, paradoxically, its willingness to tolerate strident criticism. In that spirit Arthur speaks here, as an entrenched insider, with a bold critique of a judicial system that displays a myopic lack of human understandings by lawyers who are naively focused on victory at all costs rather than addressing the real human problems of their clients.

Lindsay G. Arthur, Jr. is also a keen sportsman and lover of the outdoors. He plays a mean game of tennis on a court which he built himself, in back of his house, and likes to spend as much time as possible paddling through Minnesota?s beautiful Boundary Waters Canoe Area, where he has guided many wilderness expeditions.

He and his wife, Kathy, reside in the Minneapolis area. They have two sons, both physicians. His father, to whom this book is dedicated, and with whom the author proudly shares a common name, is a retired judge and an inspired writer.

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