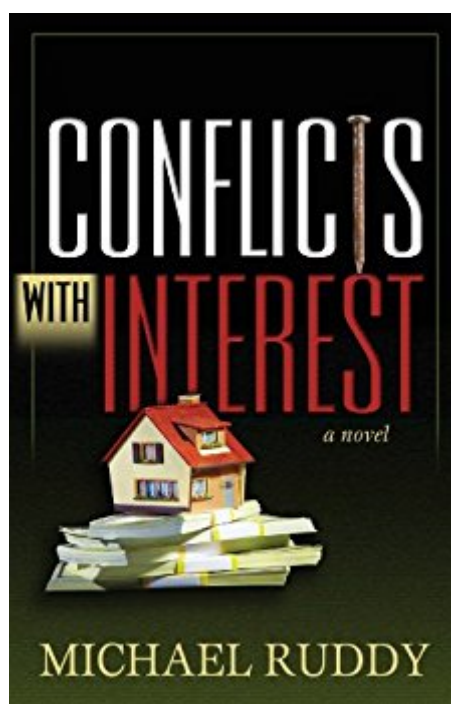


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# CONFLICTS WITH INTEREST



## Synopsis

T.R. Morgan, a seasoned building professional, finds himself entangled in the combined corruption of the high profile law firm that is attacking him and the insurance companies that are supposed to defend him. Still enduring the painful memories brought on by the tragic death of his wife, he soon finds out, nothing involving lawyers and insurance companies happens quickly. Instead of resolution, T.R., unwittingly enters a world of human trafficking, drugs, and illicit sex taking place behind the scenes. And his story comes forward to an explosive climax that no one could possibly foresee, least of all T.R. himself. This suspenseful tale of contemporary fiction is packed with enlightenment and high-stakes characters; provoking thought on a new subject in a new light.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Conflicts With Interest is a legal thriller that will have you ready to strangle some of the lawyers involved in a frivolous lawsuit over a home that had leaking windows. Just when you think the whole thing can't get any more ridiculous, it does, and to an extent that you might not have imagined. You read about things such as this in the paper but this book lays out the details of how this suit came about and how it proceeds and it just boggles the mind. But you can see from the way it unfolds that

this sort of case is something that could happen and is probably why houses cost as much as they do these days. This was an entertaining read about a builder, T.R. and his son, Ryan who are sued by Steve Sanderson of a law firm called Sinclair, Sanderson and Starr. It's defect litigation for a home they built that could have easily been cleared up without a lawsuit but gets way out of control. The story is set in the San Francisco Bay area and if you've ever lived or spent time there, you'll recognize many of the restaurants and areas of San Francisco and Marin county where the story takes place. It really gives a good sense of the area. Between the several insurance companies involved and the different law firms that get caught up in the suit, it becomes a little confusing at times, but I think Michael Ruddy does a good job of helping us keep the characters straight by making them interesting and very different from one another. It's easy to empathize with the main characters and feel their frustration as the story unfolds. It's the kind of book you can't put down once you get into it.

What a great story! This should be required reading for legislative staff in the California Assembly. Woven into an intriguing plot of good business against evil predatory plaintiffs' lawyers, and inept defense counsel, the book provides one heck of a good lesson in the ins-and-outs of professional liability coverage. It bellows the fact that, through such coverage, a business is not buying bulletproof protection from professional error. Liability insurance is simply a downpayment for carrier-provided defense counsel having skills proportionate to coverage limits. A million bucks doesn't buy much of anything anymore. Ruddy did a good job developing characters and I felt their pain and frustration as reality became more evident with each chapter.

"A must read. It's intriguing and fun. Once I started the book, I couldn't put it down. This new author's writing style, fits right up there with the best of the well know mystery writers. If you've been in the housing industry, I am sure you'll be able relate to the story line." Jerry Rouleau[...]

I have read plenty of suspense/thrillers and my fair share of legal thrillers, but *Conflicts with Interest* is very different from all I have read before. It's a fascinating look at lawsuits involving the construction industry and an overview of the lawyers involved and the insurance industry as well. It focuses on corruption on one case against a father and son construction company. There are many players in the story and they make all the layers that this story entails. I did get lost a few times with some of the legal terms but most of the book flowed very well for me. The plot never lost my attention for one moment. I liked T.R. and Ryan from the first page and enjoyed the addition of

Catherine as a character and interest for T.R. All of the lawyers had very different personalities and outlooks and that made it real and interesting. There was one lawyer I particularly liked - he really told it like it was. I also liked T.R. because he often used sarcasm to make a point and I love sarcasm. A well-written debut entry into the thriller genre - I hope Mr. Ruddy continues what he has started and has more books in store for the future.

"Conflicts with Interest" is a great read. From the first page to the last word, I found it exciting, entertaining and enlightening. It exposes the layers of unethical insurance companies and lawyers that are enmeshed when a construction defects lawsuit is brought against a small homebuilder by an opportunistic homeowner whose famous self-serving attorney is out for blood. It was fascinating to learn the legal ramifications of a simple construction defect. Easy reading. Good character depictions. Great plot and subplots. Suspenseful. Can't believe it was that author's first work.

I'm a big fan of small publishers, and was pleased to be introduced to Rodeo Publishing by the way of Conflicts with Interest, a gritty novel set in the tangled world of not-so-civil litigation. T.R. Morgan and his son Ryan are about to find out how frustrating, and in their case dangerous, going up against the corrupt powers can be. As a recent visitor to the law profession, I appreciated the author's deliberate pace when it came to the lawsuit at the center of the story. That being said, this book keeps a fast-paced tempo, complete with all the vices. Though I enjoyed this book, I probably won't hang on to this (rereading books is my highest praise) because my day job is at a law firm that actually handles similar litigation, so this hit a little too close to home. (Minus the body count, of course!) Recommended for: anyone with a stake in homebuilding in California, fans of law-based fiction, suspense readers

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