

Robert Brooke G L

served concurrently with his five-year sentence for his involvement in the \$100 million Lottery Winners ripoff, and he will not serve a single day in prison for his role in the \$5 million bid-rigging scheme, Chierchio gets Gang Land's award for **Best Plea Deal of 2025**.

And on the subject of **Best**, [*Flipping Capo*](#), *How the FBI Dismantled the Real Sopranos*, by ex-G-man Seamus McElearney and Barbara Finkelstein, is the **Best Mob Book of 2025**, edging out [*Wiseguys*](#), *Rabbis and the FBI*, which is mentioned below.

And the **Best Mob Novella of 2025**, [*Prime Target*](#), *The Assassination of Joe Colombo* by Alan Taglianetti, which was previewed here in August, was published on November 28, and is available on Amazon. Note to the guy in the back who just said, "It's the only one entered!:" Sit down and shut up. Show some respect.

Gang Land Bids Farewell To Old Friends And Colleagues

The Grim Reaper called Gang Land co-author and best buddy Tom Robbins and other bold face-named folks last year, including Bruce Cutler and mob busting prosecutor Mark Feldman, who died Sunday. But we only recently learned that David Breitbart, one of the best defense lawyers we've ever seen, passed away four years ago at the age of 82.

Which is where we begin.

"He was very kind to me," recalled defense attorney Maurice Sercarz. "He gave me office space at his office at 60 Hudson Street when I was a young lawyer starting out. I learned a lot from him. As a lawyer, he had a hard edge; but he was a warrior for his clients."

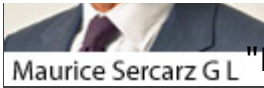


David Breitbart G L

And for their codefendants in multi-defendant racketeering cases, according to J.A. Schwartzman, co-author of *Wiseguys*, *Rabbis and the FBI*, the book about the trial and tribulations of convicted loanshark Mel Cooper.



"My job is to see that the system works," [Breitbart](#) told Schwartzman when she interviewed him in 2004 about the 1985 racketeering and loansharking trial at which seven Cooper codefendants, all accused wiseguys and mob associates, were acquitted.



"My job is to make sure that if they (the feds) get them, they get them right," he continued. "My job is to prove that the system is more important than any single defendant. My job is to see that the agents don't frame people, my job is to see that the agents don't overreach, my job is to make the system fair and impartial, that's what I perceive my job as."

Breitbart's secretary for 28 years, Dhalma (Dolly) Cacciola, remembers [her boss](#) as a very good friend, who introduced his friends to other friends who then became friends. She recalled that she became friends with Sercarz's mom in the late 1980's and still speaks to her.

"She's 96," Dolly laughed without giving her own age.

"He was very thoughtful," Dolly said. "He was a very good son. Not too many people would ever think that about him. It's not something he talked about. He used to send money to his father every two weeks. I used to live in Rockville Centre so I used to stop by his dad's place in Long Beach on my way home."



"I cared for him a lot," said attorney Joseph Corozzo. "He was a good guy, and a great lawyer. One of the nice people I met in the business. And he didn't have a big ego. He was a gentleman."

Former Organized Crime Strike Force Chief Edward McDonald said [Breitbart](#) was "great in the courtroom."



He recalled watching his summation in the Leroy (Nicky) Barnes trial that U.S. Attorney Robert Fiske prosecuted after President Jimmy Carter saw a picture of Barnes dubbed "Mister Untouchable" on the cover of the New York Times Magazine in June of 1977.

"I thought he was terrific," said McDonald, who was a young "assistant in the Manhattan DA's office" at the time and made it a point to walk over to Manhattan Federal Court to watch Breitbart deliver his closing argument.

"He did a great job, and it was fun to watch," he said. "He made the point that the feds had targeted Nicky Barnes. 'It was like an engine,' he said, mimicking the tone and cadence of Breitbart's words. "Like a lo-co, mo-tive, going-down-the track. Chugalug-chug, chugalug-chug. Nickybarnes-nickybarnes. Chugalug-chug.' He got the jury's attention. And in between he'd remind the jury of some scurrilous thing about the case."