

ABOUT MARK CURRIDEN

Mark S. Curriden was educated and trained as a lawyer but never practiced law. Instead, he chose a life of journalism, book writing, and lecturing. The specialty topics about which he writes and lectures include legal history, trends at the Supreme Court of the United States, the American jury system, and relationships between lawyers and journalists. Mr. Curriden is a senior writer for the *ABA Journal*, which is the nation's largest legal publication. He is also Writer in Residence at SMU Dedman School of Law in Dallas. He frequently is hired by legal organizations and law firms to conduct Continuing Legal Education programs on how to deal with the news media.

In 2000, Farrar Straus & Giroux published his award-winning and national best-selling book, *Contempt of Court: A Turn-of-the-Century Lynching That Launched 100 Years of Federalism*. The book, which received overwhelmingly positive reviews from the *New York Times*, *American Lawyer*, *Atlanta Constitution*, and other major publications, delves into a case that, despite being buried and long forgotten in legal history, played a significant role in the development of the law in the United States. *Contempt of Court* focuses on the case of Ed Johnson, a young black man falsely accused of raping a white woman, railroaded through the criminal justice system in Chattanooga, TN.

Mr. Curriden's presentation of this remarkable and historic case has been approved for CLE ethics credit in a number of states, and he has lectured on the case to numerous federal and state judicial organizations, state and local bar associations, law firms, and law schools.

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