

## OUTLINE

Theme: David vs Goliath. One determined agent vs the mob, the FBI, the Federal Strike Force, and at times even his own agency (DEA). A case few thought could be done. A case against Gambino OC Family bosses which made John famous as the Teflon Don.

### Story:

- Grew up in the same neighborhood, living only blocks apart but never met. The East New York section of Brooklyn was a crime filled Mafia playpen during our teenage years. Two of Gotti's friends from the old neighborhood later became members of his Mafia crew and were arrested with him.
- About same time Gotti moved to Ozone Park ueens, my family moved to Richmond Hill. We lived again only blocks from his notorious social club and base of operations.
- My future wife grew up in a Italian Brooklyn neighborhood and her family associated with the Capo di Tutti Capi of the Gambino OC family. AS a young girl, teenager and young woman, she had visited the homes of both Carlo Gambino and his successor Paul Castellano. The families socialized together, even going on outings and picnics together.
- I went to college and became a Marine Corps Officer, while John Gotti also became a leader in the Gambino OC Family.
- When we got married, no Mafia related people were invited due to the fact that many agents were in attendance.
- Wife's deceased brother was arrested with Paul Castellano in mid 1970's. Both acquitted when prime witness had lapse of memory.
- Case began in 1981 with a casual telephone call to a friendly AUSA asking for any lead which might be able to be developed into something. Lead was not overly informative, Brooklyn DA's office had a witness/informant who might know something about narcotics trafficking by a group of young Italian killers known as "The Swat Team."
- Originally, case was to be a joint effort between DEA, FBI, and NYPD. However when investigation took its natural course and pointed back at John Gotti and his "crew," FBI backed out claiming a "conflict of interest."

- FBI wanted to do its own case against Gotti. Had a bug in the house of a close Gotti friend which was giving narcotic related information. FBI would not share the bug.
- FBI trusted no one. A previous attempt a phone tap had been compromised. Later found out that an FBI agent left affidavit in a mob controlled bar.
- FBI was working with Federal Strike Force and did not want to work with the US Attorney's office. Great conflict between US Attorney's office and Strike Force due to the ABSCAM political corruption case.
- As DEA/NYPD case developed and got stronger, FBI and Strike Force contacted Main Justice, US Attorney's Office and DEA and "requested" that case be put on "back burner." US Attorney said no. DEA/cops had "sweat equity."
- FBI & Strike Force would not cooperate. Told us nothing and would do little to help.
- Got all evidence and developed witnesses from DEA files, US Attorney's archives, DA's offices for Manhattan, Brooklyn & Queens, Suffolk County, OC Task Force.
- Wife educated me about Mafia figures.
- FBI & Strike Force accused us of many things, including withholding information about a "contract" on a FBI agent. Had to speak to an FBI Inspector and explain that information was in past, not present. One of our witnesses James Cardinali had advised that he had planned to kill an FBI agent a few years before. Cardinali was close to Gotti and had murdered 5 people.
- Deal finally reached with FBI/Strike Force. They would do active narcotics case (bug) and DEA/Police would do a historical RICO conspiracy. FBI/Strike Force did not get John Gotti. DEA/Cops did.
- Investigation conducted by one DEA agent and one cop, First Grade Detective Billy Burns. Burns called the "Cardinal" due to his impeccable manners and dress. I was known as dog, white dog or mad dog because of my insane habit of talking about kissing my dog. A good team, the Cardinal and the Dog-direct opposite personalities.

- Little cooperation from DEA. It was a hot political matter but they couldn't stop me. I had support of the United States Attorney. To ease matters, I moved out of DEA Office and into Post Office across the street from the US Attorney's office. DEA had no idea what I was doing.
- I did most of the surveillance by myself. DETective Burns was a cop and had limited overtime.
- One one occasion came face to face with two Gambino soldiers on the dark back street behind the home of Family Underboss. I acted tough and bluffed them. Mafia guys always think where there's one there's twenty. NOT So.
- On another occasion on a cold night by Gotti's social club, a Gotti lieutenant ask me to come in for a hot cup of coffee.
- Gotti once said to me, "Do you know what your problem is kid? You're on the wrong side!" John Gotti can be a very humorous man.
- Indictments came down in 1985. THE Family Underboss, John Gotti and 8 others indicted. I personally arrest Gotti and Detective Burns arrests Wiffred Johnson, an 16 year top FBI informant, at Gotti's social club. **SEE PROLOGUE OF BOOK FOR DETAILS.**
- FBI tried to stop indictment but Main Justice left the the decision to the United States Attorney.
- FBI furious that their top informant into the Gotti crew was arrested. At one point in a heated discussion with our female case prosecutor, an FBI agent stated, "If you were a man, I'd punch you in the face." Response, "Take your best shot!"
- INDictment was for one count of racketeering and one count of conspiracy to racketeer.



- FBI asked to stay away day of arrests but went to see John Gotti anyway.
  
- First attempt at trial fails. Can't get jury too much publicity. While out on bail, Gotti had Gambino Family boss killed and he took over as BOSS.
  
- I testify at bail revocation hearing and GOTTI sent to jail.
  
- Wife is extremely nervous. It is obvious that Gambino OC Family knows who I am and where I live. On two occasions, I am followed home. On another occasion, my sons private school calls and advises that strange looking people were hanging around school. Indirect intimidation. Gotti was advised to have myself, the Cardinal, and the prosecutor killed but refused, "Its out of the question!"
  
- FBI had bugged house of UNDERboss after indictment and never told us. BUG had to be shut down when Federal Judge arraigned dying Underboss in his death bed.
  
- Case gets better while waiting for second attempt at trial. However, one witness, a mob bank robber and homosexual, turns on us and becomes a witness for Gotti. I testify at trial and advise that I never gave him drugs and did not see female prosecutor give him her panties to masterbate in.
  
- During trial Gotti asks me, "Who is this guy RICO everybody is talking about?" He can be very funny.
  
- Before trial I follow girlfriend of son of underboss around and watch her get on a plane for Florida. A DEA agent friend of mine in Miami meets plane and arrests boyfriend, a case fugitive. Judge gives him bail again and he becomes a fugitive again.
  
- During 8 month trial prosecutor will not allow myself and Burns to sit at prosecution table. It would look like it was the entire US government against the 10 defendants. Real reason, trial had great publicity and she wanted it all.

- After a 7 month trial, Gotti acquitted.
  
- FBI and Strike Force bask in the "glory" of our defeat. However, after FBI makes another case on Gotti, it comes out that FBI had information that jury was tampered with but did not tell trial judge, prosecutors DEA or the Police. They had concern for revealing there source of information.
  
- FBI arrests juror who took a \$60,000 bribe. Makes them look even better.
  
- I had written many reports about jury tampering but nobody paid any attention and it happened.
  
- Both prosecutors get substantial awards (\$6,000) while I don't even get a verbal well done by DEA. They were happy the political problem "went away."
  
- Four years later, I have my big problem with DEA and I retire. Detective Burns also retires.
  
- FEmale prosecutor gets a very well paying job in private industry. Her male co-counsel eventually becomes a Federal Judge. And two newspaper reporters who covered trial write a book. Everybody makes out, except the investigators who did the work.