

Biography

Terrence Hake is 1977 graduate of Loyola University of Chicago School of Law. He served for five years as prosecutor in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in Chicago, Illinois and later as an FBI Agent in Chicago. In April of 1980, he agreed to assist the FBI and the United States Attorney's Office in an investigation of the Cook County Court system. For almost 4 years he worked undercover posing as a corrupt prosecutor by accepting bribes from attorneys and later as an attorney in private practice making payoffs to judges and court personnel for the dismissal of cases. The investigation, known as "Greylord", resulted in bribery and tax charges being filed against 103 judges, lawyers and other court personnel and is one of the FBI's most successful undercover investigations.

When the last Greylord trial concluded in 1997, Mr. Hake had testified at the trials of 23 defendants. After serving in federal law enforcement for 23 years, he retired from the United States Department of Justice Office of Inspector General and eventually returned to the practice of law as an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County. Mr. Hake retired in 2016.

Mr. Hake has lectured extensively to law enforcement officers, attorneys, business professionals, and college and law students concerning the investigative techniques used in the investigation and the ethical lessons learned from Greylord. He has spoken at many colleges and law schools including the University of Chicago, Virginia Commonwealth University, Harvard, Boston College, Yale, the University of Arizona, Georgetown University and Stockholm University. He has lectured extensively to law enforcement officers, attorneys and law students concerning the undercover and ethical lessons learned from Greylord.

SYNOPSIS OF CASE

In 1980 Terrence Hake was a young prosecutor in Chicago, when he complained about the judge taking bribes to fix cases in the murder, rape, and child molestation preliminary hearing courtroom. His complaint found its way to the FBI's Chicago Field Office, and he was asked by the FBI to participate in Operation Greylord, an undercover investigation of the Cook County Courts. For three years and seven months, Mr. Hake posed, first as a corrupt prosecutor by accepting bribes from criminal defense attorneys, and later, as a corrupt defense attorney paying bribes for the dismissal of cases. In his role as a corrupt criminal defense attorney, Hake represented dozens of undercover FBI Special Agents from throughout the country, who came to Chicago to pose as criminal defendants in FBI-created criminal cases. Greylord was the first FBI investigation to bug a judge's chambers and another first was Hake becoming an FBI Special Agent in 1983, while working undercover. Operation Greylord is one of the FBI's most successful undercover investigations. Hake received the 1989 Louis E. Peters Award from the FBI and Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI for his undercover work as a prosecutor.

The publisher of Mr. Hake's book, *Operation Greylord: The True Story of an Untrained Undercover Agent and America's Biggest Corruption Bust* is Ankerwycke, an imprint of the American Bar Association.