

## *Featured Mississippi Author*

Each month The BookShelf, features one of “Our Own” Mississippi Authors.

### **About the Author:**

#### **Rick Ward**

Rick Ward was born in Tunica County, Mississippi, on August 1, 1953, in a small community called Hollywood near the town of Tunica. Ward earned an Associate degree in law enforcement from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, a B.S. in criminal justice from the University of the State of New York, and a Master’s in education from the University of Hawaii. He is a graduate of the Mississippi State Police Academy, the U.S. Army Military Police School, and the FBI National Academy. Currently Ward lives in Brandon, Mississippi. He is now a retired law enforcement officer and Gaming Commission division director who in his first book *The Lawmaker* "plays off that image of out-of-control legislators and unscrupulous lobbyists to spin a wickedly entertaining fictional tale of public corruption." The setting includes the Mississippi casino industry and an undercover federal sting operation.

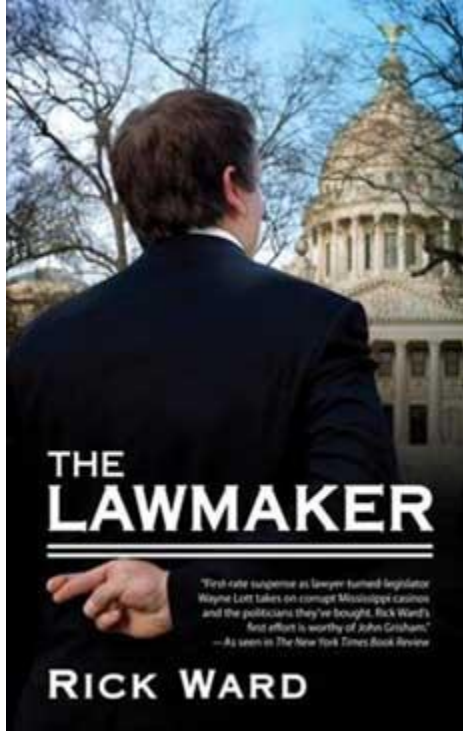


Serving active duty in the Navy until June 1975, he then entered the Law Enforcement Program at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. After serving an internship at Moss Point Police Department, he became a patrolman in Moss Point. In October 1975, as a passenger in a police pursuit that resulted in one death, Ward was hospitalized with serious injuries. A year later, he was shot in the line of duty. For the next thirty-four years he remained in the Navy reserves, while completing fourteen years in law enforcement in Mississippi and twenty years in the Navy Law Enforcement Program. Rick Ward has been a patrol officer, state narcotics officer, sheriff's investigator, Attorney General Public Integrity Division investigator and a State Gaming Commission division director.

## About the Book:

Wayne Lott is a young attorney out to make a name for himself. When a state legislative seat becomes vacant, Wayne jumps at the chance to run for office and enter what he thinks is the glamorous life of politics. But he's in for a deadly surprise.

*The Lawmaker*, published in 2009, was reviewed very favorably by Sid Salter, editor of Jackson's the *Clarion-Ledger*. Salter says, "Ward's tale of corrupt lawmakers is compelling."



Using real-life events, Ward embellishes them with fictitious scenarios that he believes will be enjoyed by readers who are interested in legal thrillers, crime, and politics told from the perspective of a seasoned, retired senior law enforcement officer. *The Lawmaker's* protagonist is Oxford attorney and freshman state legislator Wayne Lott, the son of a lawman who is gravely wounded in a mob-style hit while he is investigating the state's gaming industry. In the book, a lobbyist blackmails Wayne Lott.

According to Rick Ward, his next book (not yet published) takes *The Lawmaker's* young lawyer Wayne Lott to new heights of maturity and real world corruption, multi-national drug dealing, kidnapping and murder. The prime suspect is someone he holds in the highest esteem.

Ward is also working on another project-- the 1866 massacre in Carroll County, Mississippi. He is researching what happened, but his book will be fiction.

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[Pre-orders](#) your copy of his latest book *Blood Stained Justice*.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Wayne Lott returns to a political arena where the stakes are higher than ever. Trust is built and betrayed, political careers lie in ruin, and a countywide conspiracy holds a small Southern town in its grip. An FBI investigation finds that what seems like a political power play on the surface goes deeper to involve international drug smuggling, kidnapping, and racketeering. With lives, potential fortunes, and freedom on the line, justice is only the first casualty.

Coming in early 2010. Available now for pre-orders signed copies.

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