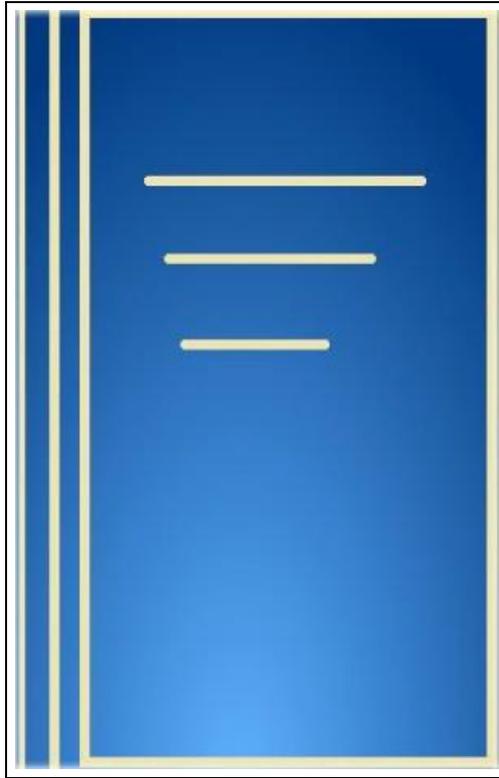


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Southern Illinois University Press, United States, 1992. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. In this extraordinary book, Elmer Gertz recounts his long struggle in what legal scholars regard as the second most important libel case in legal history: Gertz v. Robert Welch, Inc. Gertz's ordeal began in Chicago during the violent peace demonstrations of 1968. A youth, Ronald Nelson, was killed by a Chicago policeman, Richard Nuccio. Gertz represented the Nelson family in civil suits against Nuccio and the Chicago police department. After Nuccio was convicted of murder, the John Birch Society published an article in its journal, American Opinion, claiming that Nuccio was framed by Communists. Gertz was targeted as a prime Communist instigator. The file on Elmer Gertz in Chicago Police Intelligence takes a big, Irish cop to lift, wrote Alan Stang, the author of the article. After reading and studying the article, Gertz sprang into action. He learned that the magazine was published by Robert Welch, Inc., against which he promptly filed suit, charging that it had defamed him by publishing highly harmful lies impugning his reputation and patriotism. Gertz writes in chronological detail of his landmark case, which involved two trials, two reviews in the court of appeals, and two battles in the Supreme Court. Although the case was finally decided in April 1981 when a U.S. district court jury awarded him \$100,000 compensatory damages and \$300,000 punitive damages, Gertz did not receive payment until May 1983, after Robert Welch, Inc., had filed two unsuccessful appeals. Gertz was delighted with the financial judgment, but he was even more satisfied with the legal outcome. Justice, he believes, was indisputably realized. He writes: Freedom of speech and the press, important as they are, should not be the sole consideration or always the most important. In a...

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