

## Linda Fairstein Bio

Linda Fairstein, former prosecutor and best-selling crime novelist, is one of America's foremost legal experts on crimes of violence against women and children.

For three decades, from 1972 until 2002, she served in the office of the New York County District Attorney, where she was Chief of the Sex Crimes Prosecution Unit for twenty-five years. In that position, Ms. Fairstein supervised the investigation and trial of every Manhattan case involving sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and homicides arising out of these crimes. She was the lead attorney and directed all major litigation in these specialties, ranging from the homicide prosecution of Robert Chambers (the "Preppy Murder" case) in 1988 through the trial against the offenders charged with the riot in Central Park following the Puerto Rican Day parade in June, 2000.

Fairstein is an honors graduate of Vassar College (1969) and the University of Virginia School of Law (1972). In 1998, several of Fairstein's law school classmates established a scholarship fund in her honor at their alma mater. The Fairstein Public Service Scholarship supports law school students interested in pursuing careers in the public sector.

She has received numerous awards for her legal work, and was the first woman to receive many of them, including the Federal Bar Council's Emory Buckner Award and UJA Federation's Judge Joseph Proskauer Award. For her pioneering work on behalf of victims of violence, she has received Columbia University's School of Medicine and School of Nursing Award for Excellence, the Anti-Violence Project Courage Award, and scores of similar honors. Other recognition includes the American Heart Association Women of Courage Award, Glamour Magazine's Woman of the Year Award, and Columbia University Medical School's Athena Award.

Ms. Fairstein is the author of an internationally bestselling series of crime novels (translated into more than a dozen languages), which feature Manhattan prosecutor Alexandra Cooper. Final Jeopardy (1996), Likely to Die (1997), Cold Hit (1999), The Deadhouse (2001) – winner of The Nero Award for literary excellence in the crime genre, The Bone Vault (2003), and The Kills are all published by Scribner and Pocket Books. They have debuted on the *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The London Times*, and *USA Today's* bestseller list. Final Jeopardy was an ABC Premiere Movie of the Week. Her seventh novel – Entombed – will be published in January, 2005.

Fairstein is also the author of a non-fiction work. Sexual Violence: Our War Against Rape (1993) was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. She regularly contributes articles to magazines and journals.

**In addition to her writing, Fairstein is a member of the International Society of Barristers and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. She serves on non-profit boards, including victim advocacy groups Safe Horizon, Mount Sinai Hospital's Sexual Assault Violence Intervention Program (SAVI), and the New York City Task Force on Sexual Assault; Choice Cares DNA Advisory Board; God's Love We Deliver; the Gilman International Conservation Center at White Oak and the Adolescent Health Center of Mt. Sinai Hospital. She is the interim chair of the board of directors of the Virginia Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine.**

**Fairstein is a media consultant on the issue of the criminal justice system and crimes of violence against women, working with each of the three major networks, as well as CNN, MSNBC, and cable affiliates. She continues to practice law as a pro bono representative of victims of violence.**

**Linda Fairstein is married to Justin Feldman. She lives in Manhattan and on Martha's Vineyard.**