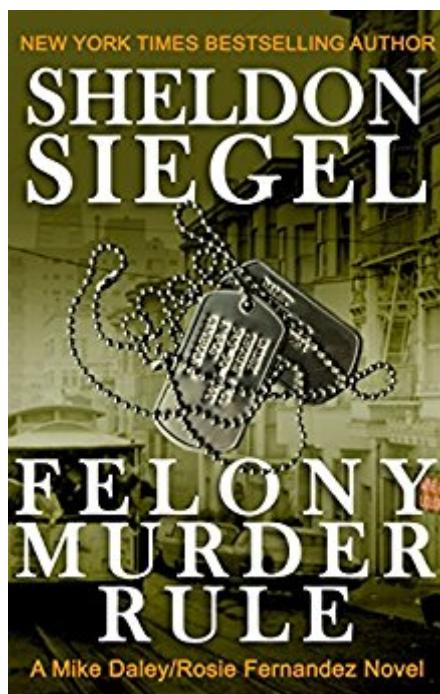


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# **Felony Murder Rule (Mike Daley/Rosie Fernandez Legal Thriller Book 8)**



## Synopsis

“I was just sitting in the car.” In the eighth installment of New York Times bestselling author Sheldon Siegel’s iconic San Francisco series, Mike Daley and ex-wife Rosie Fernandez face new challenges and stare down old demons as they return to work at the San Francisco Public Defender’s Office where they had started their careers and their relationship twenty years earlier. Mike and Rosie are now the co-heads of the Felony Division, where they spend more time running the office and supervising younger attorneys than trying cases. That changes quickly when Mike is visited by Melinda Nguyen, whose son, Thomas, a high school senior, is about to go on trial for murder. Thomas has been arrested under California’s archaic “felony murder rule,” which says you can be convicted of first degree murder if you’re present when someone is killed during the course of a felony, even if you don’t pull the trigger. The charge against Thomas shows the absurd limits of this legal doctrine. He was sitting outside in the car when a friend entered a liquor store in San Francisco’s teeming Tenderloin District and allegedly flashed a gun. The shopkeeper pulled out an AR-15 and calmly filled the alleged robber’s chest with bullets. Thomas is charged with murder even though he never entered the store. Thomas fires his original lawyer on the eve of trial after she recommends acceptance of a plea bargain. With nowhere else to turn, his mother petitions for help from the Public Defender’s Office, and Mike agrees to handle the trial scheduled to start four days later. As the evidence mounts against Thomas, it tests Mike and Rosie’s legal skills and relationship. Their stress is compounded by the fact that Thomas and his mother may have a connection to Mike’s older brother, Tommy, who died in Vietnam forty years earlier. Aided by Mike’s brother, Pete, a private investigator, and Rosie’s niece, Rolanda, a top-notch young attorney at the P.D.’s Office, Mike and Rosie face their most compelling challenge yet as they race to represent their client and try to find closure for old wounds. An intricate plot, immensely likeable characters, powerful suspense, and a touch of humor are Sheldon Siegel’s hallmarks. In *Felony Murder Rule*, readers will discover once again why reviewers have called Mike Daley and Rosie Fernandez two of the most compelling and beloved characters in contemporary crime fiction. *FELONY MURDER RULE* is the eighth book in the legal thriller series featuring Mike Daley & Rosie Fernandez.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

Have just finished reading *Felony Murder Rule* for which, like many others, I have been patiently, more or less, waiting. The facts are not in dispute, the law on which the charge has been laid is clear, although controversial, and the case cannot be argued on the validity of the law itself. The prosecution considers the case a slam-dunk and the defense is fairly sure they are right. Enter Mike Daley, a public defender once more, who, for more than one reason and against his own and Rosie's better judgement, takes the case. And away we go. Sheldon Siegel's characters are believable, even the more eccentric; his gift for making you feel you are there and his sense of humour are evident. Each book in the series is stand-alone but reading them in order is the most fun. Apparently the next book is in the works so my patient, more or less, waiting begins once more. I suspect, once again it will be worth the wait. Cassie, British Columbia

This book, like all of Sheldon Siegel's books, is fast paced and keeps one up reading until the dawn. This is the 4th book that I have read of his; and yes, I was up late reading and not able to put the book down. Each chapter is kept short which keeps the flow of the story going and easier to

read; instead of long chapters that one has to plow through in order to get to a stopping point. I was also around for the Vietnam War, I was 18 at this time in American History. Had to stand by as boyfriends went off to war.

First Sentence: The waif-thin woman eyed me nervously from the swivel chair opposite my gunmetal gray desk. As co-head of the Felony Division, DA Mike Daley rarely tries cases himself. Melinda Nguyen's son Thomas is on trial for murder even though he was not an active part of the actual crime that resulted in his friend being killed by a convenience-store owner. But how can Mike turn his back on a woman who may have been married to his brother they thought died in Vietnam? China Sea, and the boy who may be his son? It is always interesting to learn about an obscure law that can have a major impact.

Although the information is interesting, it is the revelation related to those the laws will impact that truly captures one's attention. Siegel does an excellent job of providing background on Daley, his ex-wife Rosie in a very concise manner without interrupting the flow of the story. And what a good assembly of characters it is. It is the relationships that bind the story

together. Daley's internal narrative could be annoying but isn't. Instead, it again exemplifies Siegel's writing style which is efficient and informative without the need to be overly verbose. References to other authors are always enjoyable. "Her bookcases were jammed with legal treatises, Federal literature, and Donna Leon." For those who are local, the rundown of San Francisco's famous/infamous characters can make one smile. Dialogue is so important to the flow of a story and Siegel writes dialogue exceptionally well. It's quick, sharp, and very natural. His wry humor provides a nice bit of light to the darkness of the case. This is not a book to read when you're hungry. The food may not be fine dining, but there is a lot of it. "My brother always said the most important attributes for a P.O. were patience, perseverance, and a low-maintenance digestive system." "Felony Murder Rule" corrects any misconception one may have that a legal mystery isn't suspenseful. Not only is it, but it's one with a very affecting and emotional ending. **FELONY MURDER RULE** (Legal Thriller-Mike Daley/Rosie Fernandez-Bay Area, CA-Contemp) by Sheldon M. Siegel, Inc. February 2017

Mike Daley and Rosie Fernandez will forever be at the forefront of how a good legal thriller should

be written. Sheldon Siegel has taken on one of the most obscure subjects in the criminal law with this book. Felony Murder is what all prosecutors love and what all defense counsel hate. There is no way that I could better examine this rule better than Mr. Segel has done in this story line. I don't re tell story lines in my review, but suffice it say, the rising action will keep you guessing as to who won and who lost right to the bitter end. The climax is really a "whodunnit" in its narration by Rosie. I would have to say that that the facts of the case are bizarre. And yet, Mr. Siegel takes us down a path that is both plausible and yes, scary for the defendant. Mike Dailey's dogged determination is well developed throughout the tale. He has a client who is in a "no win" situation. Yet, Dailey is determined to provide the defendant with the most rigorous defense he can provide. Dailey is the consummate defense counsel. Of all this series that I have read, this read is well up there as a winner.

After completing reading "Felony Murder Rule", I now have read all of Sheldon Siegel's terrific Mike Daley/Rosie Fernandez books. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the two main characters over this series, and how they have developed. My biggest hope, and wish is that Mr Siegel will continue to write novels involving these two wonderful characters/lawyers/former husband and wife. I believe that anyone who picks up his first novel in the series, will not be able to stop until they have read the entire (8) books!

Mike Daley and Rosie Fernandez, working in the Public Defender's office, take a last-minute felony murder case for a high school boy claiming to be Daley's grand nephew. The boy was waiting in a car while his friend went into a liquor store and was killed by the owner, who claimed the kid was going to rob him and shot in self defense. Although no one likes the felony murder rule, the prosecutor thinks someone needs to be held responsible for the death of the boy. Mr. Siegel's books just seem to get better and better! Daley and Fernandez are familiar, likeable characters. The case seems to be hopeless as it is presented, but as usual, the heroes give it their best shot. This book is easy to read and is recommended for fans of legal procedurals.

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