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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



“A mob-infiltration memoir for the Sopranos age.”—*The New York Times*

“[A] non-fiction book that reads like a thriller. You can watch as many *Soprano* episodes as you want and not get this type of drama.”—*USA Today*

“Delaney’s story...[is] more intense than overtime in the playoffs.”—*Boston Globe*

“A great book -- a fascinating read.”

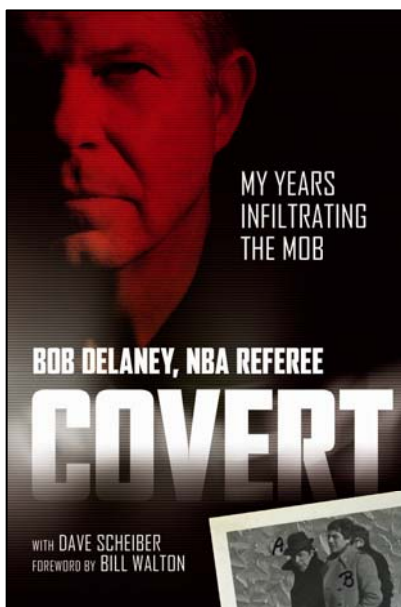
—**Jim Rome**, host of *The Jim Rome Show*, airing on more than 200 radio stations with over two million listeners.

*New in Paperback!*

# COVERT

## *MY YEARS INFILTRATING THE MOB*

By Bob Delaney, NBA Referee, With Dave Scheiber



This is the story of Bob Delaney: State Trooper turned undercover agent turned NBA referee.

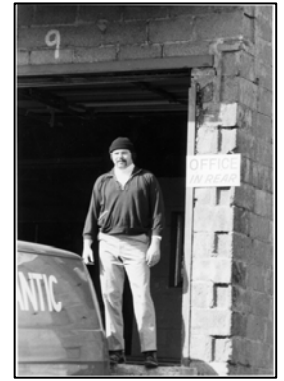
In 1975, after less than two years as a New Jersey State Trooper, Bob Delaney was approached with a life-changing offer: to infiltrate the Genovese and Bruno crime families, two of the country’s most powerful Mob organizations.

**COVERT: MY YEARS INFILTRATING THE MOB** (Union Square Press, June 2, 2009 / \$14.95) is Delaney’s story of how he left his old life behind and started a new one as Bobby Covert, president of Alamo Trucking, and principal undercover agent in what would become the landmark mob-busting investigation, Project Alpha.

This riveting page-turner chronicles the characters and nail-biting situations Delaney encountered during his time operating Alamo Trucking, a fully-operational business in northern New Jersey mounted by law enforcement as a laboratory to study organized crime. Delaney offers harrowing descriptions of the real-life risks he faced every day, as he worked with mobsters and lived a dangerous double life.

**(OVER)**

Delaney's account takes readers behind the scenes to show how law-abiding businesspeople were intimidated and extorted by cutthroat teams of mobsters eager to cut competitors out of the action. Delaney also describes the mobsters' obsession with the Godfather movies (quoting lines from "The Movie" and boasting of how often they'd seen it), as he gives readers a view of the real-life crime underworld that no movie or TV show can offer.



After nearly three heart-pounding years undercover, Delaney had gathered enough evidence to convict more than thirty organized crime figures. Project Alpha was a success, but it had taken its toll on the man at the center of it. Struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder and traces of Stockholm Syndrome after getting too close to those he investigated, Delaney went into a tailspin.

Delaney writes poignantly about his battle to re-adapt to life outside the shadows. After reexamining his life, Delaney-- a college basketball player before becoming a State Trooper--decided to get back onto the court. He began officiating high school and intramural games as a way to rebuild his life, eventually working his way up to the NBA, where he has been a referee for more than two decades.

In **COVERT**, Delaney (with his co-author, sports journalist Dave Scheiber) tells his dramatic tale for the first time. A tale for true crime-story buffs and sports fan alike, **COVERT** is ultimately an uplifting story about the triumph of the human spirit.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHORS:**

**Bob Delaney** has been an NBA referee for the past twenty years. In the 1970s, he was a highly decorated New Jersey State Trooper who went undercover for nearly three years to infiltrate the Mob, and was the principal undercover operative in the landmark investigation, Project Alpha. Bob continues to speak before law enforcement, emergency services and military groups concerning his experiences with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, as well as corporate presentations on Leadership and Teamwork.

**Dave Scheiber** is a nationally recognized sports journalist for the St. Petersburg Times. He is an award-winning writer whose feature stories have earned first places in the prestigious National Headliner Awards, the Associated Press Sports Editors contest and the Green Eyeshade Excellence in Journalism Awards. His work has appeared in numerous publications and, early in his career, he was a regular contributor to Sports Illustrated, which called him "one of the most talented young sportswriters in America."

**Bob Delaney & Dave Scheiber are Available for Interview**

### **COVERT**

June 2, 2009

Paperback/\$14.95

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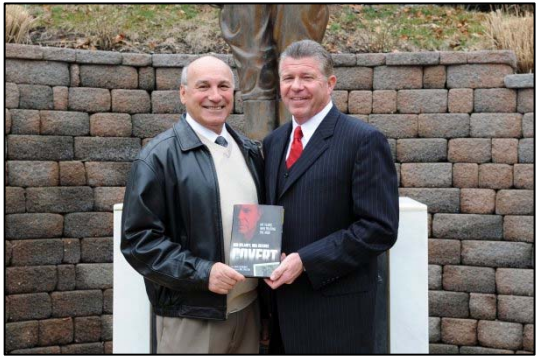
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# MORE PRAISE FOR BOB DELANEY & COVERT



“Bob was a great undercover cop and he’s got a great story to tell. His big smile and friendly personality never made the Mafia guys feel threatened, but he was constantly in danger. If Bobby Covert had said the wrong thing in a meeting, he’d have come out wrapped up in a rug. Reading his book you’ll get a true sense of the danger involved in undercover work, and how it was done by one tough guy and a true pro.”

—**Joe Pistone**

*Left: Bob Delaney sharing his book, **Covert**, with Joe Pistone (the real-life Donnie Brasco)*

“A seven foot, 275-pound man charging across a basketball court to protest a call would seem like an intimidating site, but not for NBA referee Bob Delaney. Fuggedaboutit. That ain’t nothing compared to what he endured in his previous life.”

—**NPR**

“Thirty years ago, Bobby Covert died and an NBA referee was born. ...What a story it is.”

—**New York Daily News**

“You are about to read a fascinating and gripping tale of one great American’s fight for truth and justice ... Delaney’s story is both courageous and inspirational. It may just rekindle your faith in the human spirit and prompt you to re-evaluate your own life.”

—**Bill Walton, ESPN basketball analyst, NCAA and NBA Champion**

“Bob’s a guy who worked undercover putting some very bad men away who without question would have put a bullet in his head. He doesn’t flaunt it, but he has a quiet power about him.”

—**Bernard Goldberg, Senior Correspondent, HBO Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel**

“At a time when we are hard-pressed to find genuine heroes in sports, here comes *Covert*, a story of genuine heroism and guts.”

—**John Feinstein, author of the all-time basketball bestseller *A Season on the Brink* and NPR commentator**

“NBA referee Bob Delaney and Dave Scheiber tell a riveting and unforgettable tale. This is a surprising and important story, rich in detail and beautifully told. Bob Delaney has lived a fascinating life, and his book captures it all vividly.”

—**Christine Brennan, author of *Best Seat in the House: A Father, A Daughter, A Journey Through Sports***







# NEWS RELEASE

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## **NBA REFEREE'S HARDCOVER CHRONICLE OF UNDERCOVER LIFE JOINS THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME**

*Bob Delaney's COVERT Becomes Part of the Hall of Fame's Joseph M. O'Brien  
Historical Resource Center Archives*

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. – September 26, 2008 – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame is proud to announce it has received a copy of NBA Referee Bob Delaney's book *Covert: My Years Infiltrating the Mob* for its archives. *Covert*, written with Dave Scheiber of the *St. Petersburg Times* and published by *Union Square Press / Sterling Publishing* was released in February of 2008 and is scheduled to be available in paperback in the Spring of 2009.

The book accounts Delaney's Garden State upbringing as the son of a New Jersey State Trooper and as a basketball standout at Jersey State College before becoming a state trooper himself at age twenty-one. Soon after, Delaney was recruited to go undercover in an unprecedented joint venture with the New Jersey State Police and the FBI to infiltrate the Mafia's control and influence of the Northern Jersey waterfront. For this secret mission, Delaney had to take on a new identity and for an authentic cover, had to turn his back on his loved ones and the fraternity that he most enjoyed being a part of, his fellow troopers. The 2 ½ year investigation, which was originally planned to last only six months resulted in over 30 arrests of prominent mob figures.

The undercover experience took a serious physical and mental toll on Delaney who suffered bouts with Stockholm Syndrome and post-traumatic stress. As Delaney struggled to find his new identity following his convincing life as a mobster, he returned to the sport of basketball, which proved to be both therapeutic and cathartic, first becoming a high school referee and is now one of the most respected veterans of the NBA with over two decades of officiating at the sports highest level.

"I am honored to have my book, *Covert*, in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame library", expressed Bob Delaney. "My story, like so many of my fellow NBA referees and basketball officials of all levels, is one that was born after playing days ended. Becoming a referee was the avenue available – and that road has provided an exciting ride. I share with folks that when you experience tough times, follow your passion. For me, that was basketball officiating. The calm and peace I felt on a high school basketball floor helped me through my emotional rollercoaster ride after surfacing from working undercover. I never planned on it, but that passion opened the door for my NBA career and having my story included in the Hall of Fame is humbling."

*Located in Springfield, Massachusetts, the birthplace of basketball, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame promotes and preserves the game of basketball at every level – professional, collegiate, men and women. For more information on these and other upcoming events, please visit our website at [www.hoophall.com](http://www.hoophall.com) or call 1-877-4-HOOPLA.*

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