

# Holistic Law *Interview by Joy Ramos*

Note: This is a follow-up of the article by the interviewee in the Martin Luther King special edition that was published on January 13 (page 9, Section C).

Maurice J. Attie is a Los Angeles based attorney who has been practicing law for close to 35 years. Mr. Attie has received several honors and awards from UCLA where he attended college and law school. He is known as a "lawyer's lawyer" by his colleagues.

Maurice's unique approach to law has changed the lives of many of his clients, and has also "lost" him several clients, he is quick to add. Mr. Attie encourages all clients to resolve their external disputes through the processing of their internal issues. He gives them powerful techniques with which to do this work. While most lawyers as a group are working against change and trying to maintain the status quo, Mr. Attie is at the forefront of presenting refreshing new ideas to people in and outside the legal profession. There are often many more choices available than those conventionally offered, he says. Mr. Attie expresses them publicly and privately in his unique way.

Q: What is Holistic Law?

**Maurice Attie:** A Holistic Lawyer is focused on the whole person: physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual. It's not a question of just solving the problem as the client presents it. It's a question of looking at all the parties concerned and all the issues and

all levels of the client. When we get a client who comes in with a legal problem, we see this as an opportunity to benefit everybody - how everybody can progress, become more evolved and become better off as a result of the apparent conflict that brought the client through the door.

Q: What lead you to becoming a Holistic lawyer?

**Maurice Attie:** I was a conventional lawyer from the time I started in January, 1965 through about 1990. Even though I met my spiritual teacher in 1974, I didn't understand the principles of Living Ethics he was teaching also applied to the practice of law.

But I became more and more uncomfortable with the legal aspect of my life. I was seeing how things work on a deeper level and watching and experiencing the practice of law done in a conventional way. In time, it became impossible for me to practice conventionally, so in 1990 or 1991, I shifted to a holistic practice. I thought I was the only holistic lawyer, but it wasn't true.

Q: How do you use Holistic Law in your practice?

**Maurice Attie:** I offer clients three options rather to solve their legal problem rather than one. I say to a client, "Your first option, with regard to all issues is inner processing." Everything we experience in the physical reality is just a reflection of some inner

issue. When the outer stuff appears to be troublesome, it means there's some inner stuff that hasn't been taken care of. It's just a calling card from the Soul. The inner processing can make the outer stuff shift which is exactly why the Soul is giving us that experience.

The second option is what I call the "Mediative Option" where we view the situation as an opportunity to better all the parties involved. In other words, I say to the client, "How can I best improve the situation of the person who is your opponent?" We work together in the process of creating betterment for all parties.

The third and last is what I call the "Relegated Option", the last and least one I like. That's where we actually do the legal work - whether it be litigation or negotiation - on the surface at least in a relatively conventional way. I instruct the client by explaining, "Look, you're the person that brought this issue in. This is the reality you created. It's important for you to stay conscious and aware of all stages of what we're going through." The client is encouraged to actively participate in a multi-level way: physical, emotional and spiritual with regard to each stage of what's going on, so that the client basically is able to track the flow of the case. This attunement is the learning process for the client.

Q: Why do you prefer law in this manner?

**Maurice Attie:** Feeling the shift in consciousness of my clients is very fulfilling and gratifying for me. The pleasure I get in seeing people do the inner processing and knowing that it has touched their Soul is what this work is all about for me. It's like a calling. It's now clear to me that my mission in this life is to be in the justice system and to help the practice of law shift for others.

The main reason I travel around the world and lecture on this subject is to share this passion. It is that powerful a force within me to get the message out to as many people as I can.

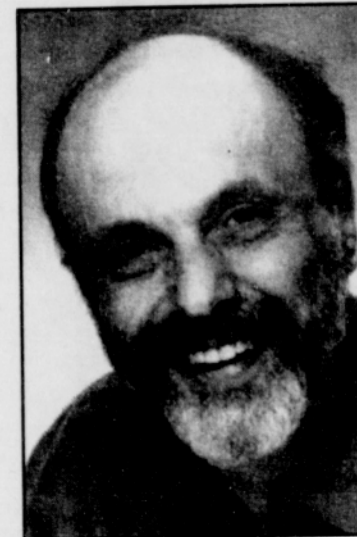
Q: Are there other lawyers practicing Holistic Law?

**Maurice Attie:** The latest studies show that two out of every three are dissatisfied with the practice of law. The latest studies show that two out of every three are dissatisfied with the practice of law. Quite a few are joining organizations which are holistically oriented.

The organization I belong to is called The International Alliance of Holistic Lawyers which was founded in 1991 in Vermont by 10 people. The I.A.H.L. now has about 300 members and an interest list of over 6,000 lawyers and others involved in the justice field.

Q: What does the International Alliance of Holistic Lawyers do?

**Maurice Attie:** The I.A.H.L. is a growing, powerful, energetic organization. Our current Board of Directors is very active. Our



Maurice J. Attie

plans are to reach out into as many areas as possible. To local bar associations, to related fields, like court report associations, court interpreters, expert witness associations, holistic nurses and doctors. Our particular focus this year is to liaison with the law schools and, just like Patch Adams, show the students that conventional law practice will not be their only option. We are asking our membership to adopt a student, one-on-one, as a mentoring program for holistic law. The annual convention in 1999 will be held in South Florida.

Maurice Attie is available for consulting, lectures and workshops. He can be reached at 10610 Kinnard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024 or e-mail at MMJA@JUNO.COM.

## A Profile Of The Hunter And The Hunted



By Ronald Turco, M.D.

The development of a psychological profile is a team endeavor encompassing the integration of the crime scene, autopsy findings, witness interviews and reports,

photographs and forensic materials. Profiling involves the preparation of a biographical sketch gathered from this information and from known psychodynamic material. The personal habits and relationships of the victim are considered. Sought as a primary objective is fusion of the profiler with the perpetrator and the emergence of a vision of the perpetrator as interpreted by the profiler.

The profile has the purpose of a psychological assessment of the crime scene. Working backward from the crime scene, one attempts to develop a short biography of the outstanding characteristics of the suspect to illuminate and better direct the investigation. The profile is used in conjunction with the physical

evidence, recognizing that the homicide scene is a sign of the "acting out" of the perpetrator.

Crime profiling must start with something logical and sensible, because simplistic "cookbook" interpretations reduce the efficacy of behavioral scientific profiling and can lead an investigation astray. I look to the uniqueness of a crime scene and then utilize my own unconscious, plus psychoanalysis, for a hypothetical construct regarding the perpetrator.

While working with a task force, I review data bases available. The FBI system of organized and disorganized murders is helpful.

Organized murders are methodical and cunning; they are

more likely to live with a partner, to have their own transportation, to be involved in skilled or semi-skilled work, to be socially competent and middle class. Frequently they are only children or among the oldest of their siblings.

An organized crime scene is one on which the victim has specifically targeted, in which the killer has used restraints and to which weapon has been carried and then taken away. Organized killers are also excited by cruelty and publicity; they often torture their victims before killing them; and they follow police investigations through the media and by frequenting police haunts to follow the progress of a case - maybe their case. They may also revisit the crime scene partly to ensure that the body has

been discovered, but also to bring back a body part or to "talk" to the victim if his body is still present. Law enforcement officers have learned to "wire" some of the graves of victims of serial killers in the event of the killer's visit to the grave site.

Disorganized murderers are generally mentally disturbed, single, low to middle class, have below-average intelligence, don't have cars, have a history of mental disorder and are employed in menial or unskilled work. Disorganized crime scenes reveal evidence of spontaneity or frenzy, the use of weapons of convenience to beat or strangle, rather than to shoot), an absence of apparent A -

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