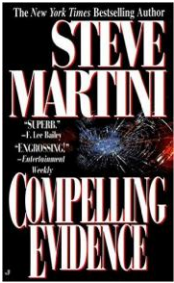


The Paul Madriani series

by Steve Martini



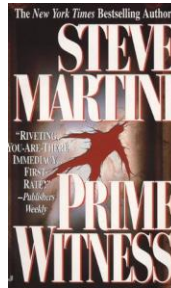
Compelling Evidence [1992]

In *Compelling Evidence*, Paul Madriani, a brilliant criminal defense attorney, was once a promising associate on the rise with Potter, Skarpellos, a prestigious law firm specializing in the defense of “compromised” executives. One of its cofounders is Ben Potter, Paul’s mentor, whose faultless reputation has earned him a probable nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the aftermath of an affair with Ben Potter’s wife, Paul left the firm and took up a self-imposed exile in a small solo practice. He must scramble for work amid the ghosts of his doomed affair while struggling to hold together the remains of a failing marriage.

On the eve of the nomination, Potter is found dead, a shotgun by his body, an apparent suicide. As details come to light in the police investigation, the case turns from suicide to murder and the needle of suspicion begins to point toward the victim’s wife, Talia Potter. Indicted and arrested for murder, snared in a web of intrigue as her husband’s associates plot for control of the firm, Talia turns to Paul, her former lover, to defend her against the mounting evidence to be presented by the politically ambitious chief prosecutor who is bent on sending her to the gas chamber.

Here is a courtroom drama of epic proportions. Never before has a trial been presented in a novel in such riveting and uncompromising detail. With courtroom scenes as sharp as the crack of a gavel, *Compelling Evidence* is as close as any reader is likely to come to the legal maneuvering and psychological trauma of a death penalty case. Mesmerizing in its pace, captivating in its action, this is a story that holds the reader to its final verdict and shocking conclusion.



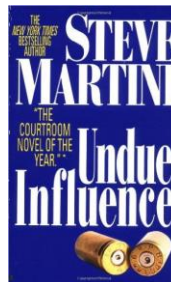
Prime Witness [1993]

Over just five days, the rural college town of Davenport, California, is rocked by two sets of brutal murders. When two more bodies are discovered, Paul Madriani, the brilliant defense attorney from *Compelling Evidence*, is tagged as the special prosecutor who must find the murderer, dubbed “the Putah Creek Killer” – and quickly. Following a trail of mounting physical evidence, Madriani and the police are led to a college security guard, who is arraigned on multiple charges of murder.

But things begin to spin out of control when Madriani confronts Adrian Chambers, the suspect’s defense attorney, who harbors a checkered past and a deep-seated vendetta against Paul. Even worse, while the evidence linking the suspect to the first four slayings is irrefutable, something is clearly different with the last two murders. As the trial slowly proceeds, Madriani begins to realize there is another killer at large.

Only during the trial – when he is fighting for the conviction of one killer and the identification of another – does Madriani discover terrifying answers that go far deeper than anyone imagined. Answers that will shock, mesmerize, and hold the reader captive until the last page.

Undue Influence [1994]



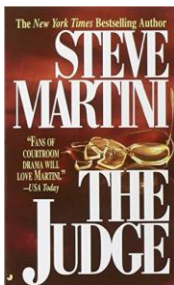
Paul Madriani, the brilliant defense attorney readers came to admire in the New York Times best-sellers *Compelling Evidence* and *Prime Witness*, finds himself in a complex web of murder and deceit – this time within his own family. Paul’s wife, Nikki, has died of cancer,

leaving him alone to bring up their young daughter, Sarah. On her deathbed, Nikki asked a favor of Paul: that he look after her younger sister, Laurel Vega, who is mired in a bitter child-custody battle with her former husband, a powerful state legislator. The two Vegas have brawled in

open court for weeks, locking horns over who will be awarded custody of their two teenage children.

When Jack Vega's new, younger wife is found slain execution-style in their opulent home, Laurel Vega becomes a prime suspect. And when physical evidence closes the loop, she is arrested and charged with first-degree murder. Paul, remembering his promise to his wife, has no choice but to take her case.

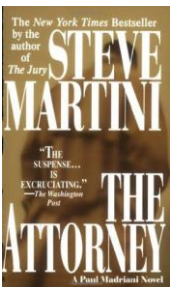
As he scrambles to mount a defense, Madriani investigates every angle of the murder, and uncovers more than a few skeletons in the Vega family closet. He unearths a dark and enigmatic side of Laurel, an aspect he never knew existed, and with this discovery comes the most chilling question of all: Did Laurel Vega commit murder?



The Judge [1995]

Steve Martini's explosive new thriller finds attorney Paul Madriani the unlikely defense lawyer for an old nemesis. Judge Armando "the Coconut" Acosta is arrested on charges of soliciting prostitution in a sting operation of "johns," and few, including Paul Madriani, who has a long history of enmity with the judge, are sympathetic. Abandoned by his friends on the Capital County bench, Acosta is forced, in an ironic twist, to ask Paul to save his career from impending doom. Paul initially rejects Acosta's pleas, but when Acosta's original defense lawyer is forced off the case by a zealous district attorney looking for revenge, Paul is required to step forward and defend the judge.

As the case proceeds, the young female deputy reserve officer who snared the judge is found brutally murdered, and Acosta is the prime suspect. The reason? The officer was the only person who could give evidence against the judge. With his client now charged with murder, Paul faces the most daunting, disturbing, and complex case of his career.



The Attorney [2000]

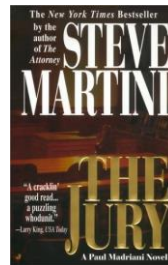
Paul Madriani is back in an absorbing new legal thriller by the New York Times bestselling author of *The Judge* and *Undue Influence*.

"Riveting ...a suspenseful tale, right up to

the satisfying climax," wrote Publishers Weekly in praise of *The Judge*. "Legal thrillers don't get much better than this." Kirkus Reviews hailed *Undue Influence* as "the courtroom novel of the year." Now Martini delivers Paul Madriani's most challenging case yet.

Having moved to San Diego to be closer to the woman in his life, Madriani takes on the case of Jonah Hale, an elderly man in dire straits. As a result of their only child Jessica's longtime drug addiction, Jonah and his wife have been raising their eight-year-old granddaughter, Amanda. On the heels of Jonah's multimillion-dollar state lottery win, Jessica revives her interest in mothering. When Jonah won't deal — maternal rights for a mega bucks payoff — Jessica pulls out all the stops.

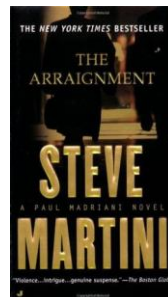
Enter Zo Suade — a flamboyant, feminist activist with a talent for making children and their "victimized" mothers disappear. When the next move turns deadly, Madriani finds himself drawn into a web of deceit and high stakes action, in and out of the courtroom.



The Jury [2001]

Lawyer Paul Madriani is called upon to defend a brilliant research physician — who just may be a killer — in this riveting new novel by the best-selling author of *The Attorney*....Madriani has ample reason to suspect he's representing a guilty man. Dr. David Crone, a respected medical researcher and principal in mapping the human genome, is charged with the murder of a young colleague: twenty-six-year-old Kalista Jordan, an African-American research physician whose body washed up on a beach in San Diego Bay.

Forensic evidence links her murder with material in Crone's garage. Crone had both opportunity and motive: Kalista had recently ended their affair, and may have been deserting him professionally as well, moving on to a rival genetic research facility. However, when a key witness for the prosecution dies unexpectedly, leaving an incriminating note behind, Crone's innocence seems confirmed — until Madriani hits upon a potentially damning loose end.



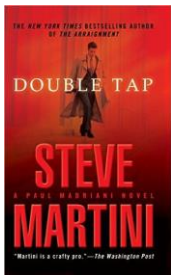
The Arraignment [2003]

After a lawyer-friend is killed along with his client in a hail of gunfire outside the federal courthouse in San Diego, attorney Paul Madriani takes on another client who

Paul believes is involved at the edges of the double murder. He takes the case not to defend the man, but to find out who killed his friend and why. Paul is tortured by questions of conflict, his duty to a client who may have killed his friend and the need to know the truth, wondering whether he himself had been marked for death only to have a friend die in his place. Paul finds himself with a window into places he never wanted to go, drawn into a vortex of crime that spans the Americas.

As he searches for the killer, Paul rides the crest of a dangerous wave involving international drug deals and the people who murder for money. Suddenly he realizes it is not heroin or cocaine that resulted in the murder of his friend, but a priceless piece of pre-Columbian art, something so dazzling in the information it holds as to be one of the treasures of the ages.

In a quest that takes Paul from California to Mexico and the Guatemalan border, he discovers that while the motive to kill may be driven by distant, exotic and ancient artifacts, the killer, like a serpent, lies much closer at hand.



Double Tap [2005]

Attorney Paul Madriani defends a highly decorated soldier on trial for murder and unwittingly steps into a maze of secrets and lies that the United States government – and possibly even his client – would rather leave hidden and

undisturbed.

In his new outing, Madriani is faced with daunting ballistics evidence, a so-called “double tap” – two bullet wounds tightly grouped to the victim’s head, shots that could only have been made by a crack marksman. Madriani’s client, Emiliano Ruiz, is an enigma, a career soldier who refuses to talk about his past though clearly he is a battle-tested pro. Ruiz is accused of killing a beautiful businesswoman and guru of a high tech software empire catering to the military.

One key to the case that’s especially damning for Madriani’s client: the murder weapon is one used only in special operations where the “double tap” has become the signature of the most skilled assassins.

Ruiz is sitting on a story he says he’s not at liberty to tell – a seven-year-gap on his military resume for which Madriani can find no details. And more troubling, Madriani discovers that the victim and her company were

involved in a controversial government computer program designed to combat terrorists. Madriani finds himself in a deadly legal quagmire – with a client who refuses to help and prosecutors who stonewall every question about the victim’s shadowy business and his client’s past. Finding justice and the unvarnished truth has never been so elusive – or so dangerous.



Shadow of Power [2008]

The Supreme Court is one of our most sacred – and secretive – public institutions. But sometime secrets can lead to cover-ups with very deadly consequences.

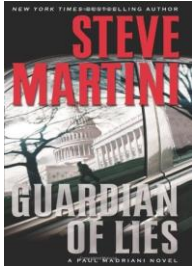
Terry Scarborough is a firebrand. He’s also a controversial law professor whose new book, *Perpetual Slaves*, presents evidence that the roots of slavery are still deeply imbedded in the U.S. Constitution. Scarborough has cunningly created a media-frenzy, and his book is rocketing up the bestseller lists, while fueling unrest nationwide. In the midst of his highly-charged book tour, Scarborough announces that he is about to unveil an even greater and more damaging controversy: a previously unpublished letter written by Thomas Jefferson (the “J Letter”) that portends some deep secret about slavery at the nation’s founding. But on the day he’s to appear on national television to tell the world of this damning document, he is found beaten to death in a San Diego hotel room and a young man with unsavory connections is arrested for his murder.

As a favor to the young man’s father, Paul Madriani takes the case—even though it looks like an open-and-shut conviction. Madriani, a brilliant defense lawyer, begins by pulling out all the stops to get the truth out of his young client—especially why, as an employee of the hotel and perhaps the last person to see Scarborough alive, he ran from the murder scene instead of reporting it to someone. Factoring in the man’s admitted radical beliefs and an alleged plot to kidnap Scarborough, Madriani’s faced with the near-impossible task of keeping the kid off of death row.

Traveling far and wide to talk to Scarborough’s friends, Madriani thinks he’s chasing blind leads – with no potential subpoenas in sight. But he doggedly pursues references to the J Letter, and uncovers a mysterious connection between this explosive historical document, Scarborough, and a sitting U.S. Supreme Court justice. Madriani suspects that the letter is at the heart of the murder and he won’t let anyone stand in his way of

uncovering how one of the nation's top judges could be involved.

Madriani carefully treads a dangerous path through a complex legal minefield in one of the most politically and racially charged cases in U.S. history. Desperate to uncover the truth, he must hunt down the Jefferson document and risk exposing a high court justice without bringing more turmoil to an already uneasy public. But when Madriani discovers the astonishing facts behind the letter, the case breaks wide open and he must race against time to save his client's life.



Guardian of Lies [2009]

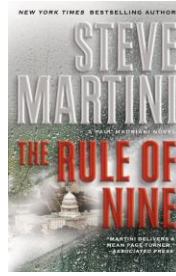
Defense attorney Paul Madriani gets caught in a web of deceit and murder involving Cold War secrets, a rare coin dealer who once worked for the CIA, and a furious assassin in one of the most entertaining novels yet in this New York Times bestselling series.

A woman pauses in the hallway of a darkened San Diego beach house at night—listening for just the right moment when she can flee before her companion notices that she's gone.

A man outside watches the same mansion, waiting for a sign that he can enter on his mission of blood and carnage.

So begins this riveting new tale about Paul Madriani and his latest case—that of Katia, a woman accused of an unlikely crime—a trial that will unravel a careful but horrifying conspiracy. Madriani soon realizes that he's signed onto something much more sinister than a botched heist. As he searches for the truth that will clear Katia's name, he finds himself on a path that takes him from Southern California to Costa Rica, and, ultimately, to a secret buried since Castro's rise to power.

Together with his partner, Harry Hinds, Madriani must piece together the threads of a decades-old conspiracy involving priceless gold coins, an aging American spy, a disaffected Russian soldier, and a forgotten weapon from the days of JFK and the Cuban Missile Crisis. As the separate strands of the story come together, Madriani finds information that will ultimately lead him to the one person who holds the key to it all: a man some call "The Guardian of Lies.

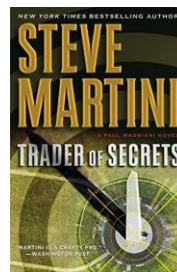


The Rule of Nine [2010]

The Old Weatherman dreams of a plan that could be his swan song, an attack to drive a stake through the heart of the right-wing establishment and bury it for good. Now he's found the money, the ideal weapon, and the professional who knows how to use it. And he has set his sights on the perfect target at the very seat of the United States government, in the heart of downtown Washington. It will be a strike heard round the world.

San Diego defense attorney Paul Madriani is still reeling from the trauma of a near nuclear explosion he helped avert at the naval base in Coronado. Threatened by federal authorities to keep quiet about the close call in California, Madriani is now faced with a new problem in the steely-eyed and alluring Joselyn Cole, a weapons control expert, who believes he has to go public with what he knows if they have any hope of stopping a similar event in the future.

But Madriani has been linked to the murder of a Washington, D.C., political staffer, and authorities believe a shadowy figure called Liquida—a hired assassin known as "the Mexicutioner"—may be responsible. And this man, as the last survivor of the attack in San Diego, might be driven by a bizarre and horrifying star-crossed vendetta, and might now be looking for Madriani himself. What Madriani and Cole begin to fear is that the Old Weatherman and this madman have joined forces and intend to pull the city—and the country—into a vortex of terror before Madriani and Cole can find answers to the enigma that is "the rule of nine."



Trader of Secrets [2011]

Defense attorney Paul Madriani is embroiled in a case as perilous as any he has ever faced: one that involves an angry killer who will stop at nothing short of vengeance, and two missing NASA scientists who are holding secrets that a hostile government desperately wants to purchase—in blood if they must.

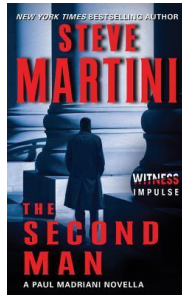
Madriani's daughter, Sarah, has evaded the man known as Liquida, who has stalked her all the way across the country. For her own safety, she is being kept under armed guard on a farm in Ohio. But one morning, itching for a predawn run to shake off the tension that has grown

in the hours she's spent waiting for word from her father, Sarah slips from her ring of protection. What she doesn't know is that at the same moment her assailant is outside, waiting patiently in the dark.

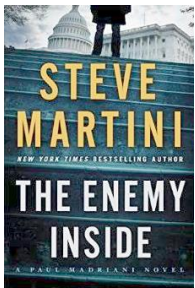
Meanwhile in California, two men in a parked car argue over millions in cash that could be slipping through their fingers and a scheme involving government technology for sale that could rock the world. Paul Madriani, his companion Joselyn Cole, and his longtime law partner, Harry Hinds, track Liquida, not knowing that their quest will carry them deep into the vortex of international terror. It is a journey that will lead them toward a bizarre and cruel twist of nature—and the ultimate weapon of mass destruction. From the nation's capital to California, from Bangkok to Paris and the jungles of Mexico, Madriani and his party race against time to find Liquida and the scientist who is the "trader of secrets" before he can unleash the weapon that could set the world ablaze.

The Second Man [Novella] **[2015]**

Navy SEALs are the military's elite - highly trained, deadly, and sworn to secrecy about the details of their dangerous and confidential missions. So when one of the men goes public about a high-profile assassination abroad, all of his comrades are thrown into peril.



In this riveting novella, attorney Paul Madriani comes to the aid of a Navy SEAL who is pursued by his own government and facing possible prosecution for disclosures he says were made by others. When the soldier disappears, Paul finds himself ensnared in a deadly game of intrigue that forces him to track the man down before it is too late.



The Enemy Inside [2015]

Defending an innocent young man, defense attorney Paul Madriani uncovers a morass of corruption and greed that leads to the highest levels of political power in this electrifying tale of suspense from New York Times bestselling author Steve Martini.

One of the most successful lawyers in the country, Olinda Serna is a master at managing money as well as her influential clients. After years of fierce combat in the political trenches, Serna knows all the dirty secrets, where the bodies are buried, and how deeply they are stacked. When she's killed in a roadside crash in the high desert of Southern California, powerful heads in Washington begin to panic, worried that their secrets may not be safe anymore.

Alex Ives, a friend of Paul Madriani's daughter, is accused of vehicular manslaughter in Serna's death. Ives claims he had only one drink on the night of the accident, yet he can't remember anything between the time he left for a party north of San Diego and the moment he woke up in a hospital the next morning. He's still dazed and a little bruised, but also obviously very afraid. After all, a woman is dead, and he's sure he didn't kill her.

To save an innocent young man's life, the brilliant defense attorney must uncover everything he can about Serna and her clients—no matter how unsavory—a search that will lead him into a vortex of corruption, and at its center, a devious killer poised to strike again.

The Steve Martini Website: www.stevemartini.com

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