RAY LOPEZ
AUTHOR • STORYTELLER
RayLbooks.com

AUTHOR MEDIA KIT

For bloggers, podcasters, and journalists — everything you need to feature Ray, in one place.

Short Bio

Ray Lopez is an evangelist and ordained minister, a retired Supervisory U.S. Probation Officer, and a mitigation specialist in federal death penalty cases. Converted at 19 while locked up, he spent 35 years in probation — then told his own story of destruction, discovery, and determination in the memoir trilogy Hard Knocks, Hard Love, and Hard Faith, followed by the novellas The Painter and The Second Coming of Joan (Resource Publications, an imprint of Wipf & Stock). He ministers to the hardcore, one at a time.

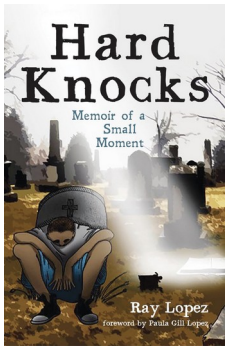
Long Bio

Ray Lopez writes for the ones the world counted out — the locked up, the addicted, the ones carrying a past they think disqualifies them. His books don't clean the story up, and they don't preach from a distance. They walk through destruction, discovery, and determination with a man who lived all three — and found his way back. If you've been where Ray has been, his story will tell you the truth: it's not over for you.

Ray was born in Brooklyn in 1959 and raised on Long Island. Alcohol and meth had him by his late teens, along with gang activity, a psychiatric hospital, and jail. Locked up at 19, he found Christ — and was called to be an evangelist the moment he was saved. He started as a juvenile probation officer at 21 and built a 35-year career in probation, the last 26 years as a U.S. federal probation officer, rising to Supervisory U.S. Probation Officer. Since retiring in 2016, he has worked as a mitigation specialist in federal death penalty cases — sitting with people the system is ready to give up on.

Today Ray is an ordained minister, still ministering to the hardcore, one at a time. He holds a master's degree in English from UC Berkeley. He and his wife Paula — "the professor," who wrote the forewords to his memoir trilogy — have two adult children. His five books are published by Resource Publications, an imprint of Wipf & Stock, and he has shared his story as a guest on the Law and Legitimacy podcast.

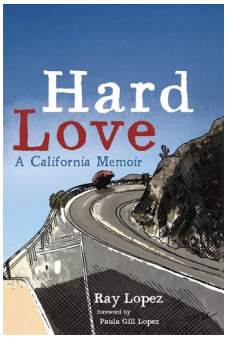
The Books



Hard Knocks

2020 · $18

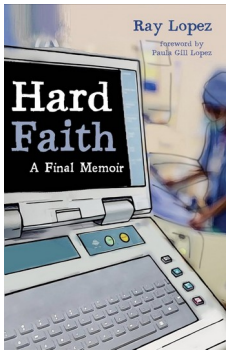
Where it all began: the streets, the cells, and the moment everything changed.



Hard Love

2021 · $13

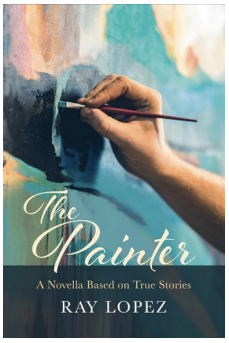
A new life on the West Coast, and learning what love actually costs.



Hard Faith

2021 · $20

Faith tested by death all around him — and the determination to be life-giving.



The Painter

2022 · $13

A novella based on true stories: a mob gunman turned art therapist, and the officer who knew him.



The Second Coming of Joan

2026 · $10

A Bosnian War novella — a child's survival, and the faith that finds her.

Praise

- Kirkus Reviews praised Hard Knocks for its "strong facility with language."
- OnlineBookClub's official review rated Hard Knocks 4 out of 4 stars.
- The Painter is endorsed by Judge Frederic Block and by author Eddie K. Wright.
- Hard Faith carries endorsements from James Brown (The Los Angeles Diaries) and John Hedstrom, Executive Director of the ALS Association MA Chapter.
- Hard Love is endorsed by Gina Blaze, codirector of the New England Prayer Center.
- The Second Coming of Joan carries endorsements including Eddie K. Wright, Amanda Hanna, Warren Maxwell, and David Adam Gill.

Hear Ray — Podcast Interviews

Ray was a guest twice on Law and Legitimacy with Connecticut attorney Norm Pattis (WICC 600 AM / 107.3 FM). Both conversations are public and streamable — the fastest way to hear how Ray tells his story.

June 3, 2022 — "Ray Lopez + Federal Probation and Sentence Mitigation." The career conversation: how Ray landed on probation himself, his road from California childhood to Supervisory U.S. Probation Officer, and his work in federal death penalty cases. Listen: landl.libsyn.com — search "Ray Lopez."

June 9, 2022 — "Ray Lopez Returns! The Role of Religion in Public Life." The faith conversation: his path to becoming an ordained minister, his psychological break and institutionalization, and his journey into faith. Available on iVoox and the usual podcast apps — search "Law and Legitimacy Ray Lopez Returns."

Sample Interview Questions

1. You found Christ at 19 while locked up. What happened that night?

2. Your memoirs don't soften the story — the addiction, the gangs, the psychiatric hospital. Why was it important to tell it unfiltered?

3. You went from being on probation yourself to a 35-year career as a probation officer, rising to Supervisory U.S. Probation Officer. How did your past shape the way you treated the people on your caseload?

4. What does "ministering to the hardcore" mean in practice?

5. The Painter is based on Gaetano Milano, a man you knew through your work. What made his story the one you had to tell as fiction?

6. The Second Coming of Joan takes readers to the Bosnian War through a child's eyes. What drew you to Nadja's story?

7. Hard Faith deals with ALS, loss, and depression after retirement. What do you say to readers walking through grief right now?

8. Your wife Paula wrote the forewords to the trilogy. How has her voice shaped these books?

9. You've written poetry since the 1980s. Where does poetry fit in a life like yours?

10. Today you work as a mitigation specialist in federal death penalty cases. What has that work taught you about mercy?

Author Photo

A high-resolution author photo is available on request through the contact page at RayLbooks.com.

Speaking, Media & Bulk Orders

Ray is available for speaking engagements, ministry appointments and events, media interviews, and bulk orders for churches, ministries, and groups. Reach him through the contact form at RayLbooks.com — choose the reason that fits, and he will respond directly. Publisher: Resource Publications, an imprint of Wipf & Stock (wipfandstock.com).