



**Dutton**

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**MICHAEL MCGARRITY TO PEN EPIC WESTERN TRILOGY**

**New York, New York – August 15, 2011** —Brian Tart, president and publisher of Dutton, announced today the acquisition of a Western epic trilogy by *New York Times* bestselling author Michael McGarrity. Barney Karpfinger of The Karpfinger Agency made the sales of North American rights and Mr. Tart will edit. The first installment in the trilogy, *Hard Country*, is scheduled for publication in June 2012.

Three years ago, McGarrity, the award-winning author of the Kevin Kerney series, decided he wanted to take a break from his contemporary police procedurals and write a western epic that spans the history of the Southwest from 1875 to 1918. As a former deputy sheriff for Santa Fe County, an instructor at the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy, and an investigator for the New Mexico Public Defender's office, no other writer is better suited to reviving the Western genre than McGarrity.

*Hard Country* presents the history of the Kerney family, as they move west in the post-Civil War era to the barren plains of West Texas and eventually to New Mexico. Filled with outlaws, border wars, Comanche raids, cattle rustlers, frontier justice, redemption, and long standing revenge, it is an epic story of life and death in the American West.

**ABOUT DUTTON**

Dutton is the U.S. member of the internationally renowned Penguin Group (USA). Dutton is the home to many bestselling authors such as Harlan Coben, Ken Follett, Eckhart Tolle, John Lescroart, Tami Hoag, Eric Jerome Dickey, Linda Fairstein, Raymond Khoury, Jonathan Tropper, T. Jefferson Parker, and Kelley Armstrong. Penguin Group (USA) is one of the leading U.S. adult and children's trade book publishers, owning a wide range of imprints and trademarks, including Penguin Press, Berkley Books, Penguin, Gotham Books, G.P. Putnam's Sons, Plume, New American Library, Viking, Philomel, and Riverhead Books, among others. The Penguin Group (USA) is part of Pearson, plc, the international media company.