

Eric Dezenhall is an author and damage control expert based in Washington, D.C. He is the CEO of Dezenhall Resources, a nationally recognized high-stakes communications firm where his clients include multinational corporations and prominent institutions and individuals facing withering public scrutiny and legal jeopardy.

Eric is the author of nine books, including three non-fiction texts on crisis communications, corporate witch hunts and reputational attacks, entitled *Damage Control: How to Get the Upper Hand When Your Business is Under Attack* (Portfolio, 2007) and *Nail 'Em! Confronting High Profile Attacks on Celebrities and Businesses* (Prometheus Books, 1999), both of which have been widely cited in business, media and academic circles. His third non-fiction book, *Glass Jaw: A Manifesto for Defending Fragile Reputations in an Age of Instant Scandal* (12 Books, October 2014), explores how once-powerful people, organizations and brands are easily brought down by the seemingly powerless through a media and internet that feed almost exclusively on destructive information. The book highlights new, often counter-intuitive strategies for fighting back. He is also the author of six novels: *Money Wanders* (St. Martin's, 2002), *Jackie Disaster* (Minotaur, 2003), *Shakedown Beach* (St. Martin's, 2004), *Turnpike Flameout* (St. Martin's, 2006) and *Spinning Dixie* (St. Martin's, 2007). His sixth novel, *The Devil Himself* (Thomas Dunne, St. Martin's, 2011), deals with the collaboration between the U.S. Navy and organized crime during World War II to secure American ports from Nazi attack.

He has appeared on network television and radio outlets including NPR, CNN, FOX, CNBC, and MSNBC; has written for the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Business Week*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *USA Today*; is a regular contributor to the *Daily Beast*, *Huffington Post* and *CNBC.com*; and has been quoted in publications including *Fortune*, *USA Today*, *Forbes*, and the *Washington Post*. A sought-after lecturer, he has spoken at universities like the University of Chicago (Booth School of Business), Georgetown University, Dartmouth College and The George Washington University to corporate audiences such as Coca-Cola, Johnson & Johnson, Procter & Gamble, and General Electric, as well as the FBI. He is an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown's McDonough School of Business where he teaches a course in crisis management to MBA students.

Eric's construct of how attacks against prominent individuals and organizations are "packaged" using the "three Vs" – Villains, Victims and Vindicators – was cited in the closing arguments for plaintiff Nicole Eramo in her successful defamation lawsuit against *Rolling Stone* magazine.

As an investigative writer, Eric wrote articles about the newly discovered diaries of the late mobster Meyer Lansky, which appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* Syndicate, the *Baltimore Sun*, *The New Republic*, and *Ethical Corporation*. A documentary he co-produced on organized crime aired on the Discovery Channel.

Eric is a graduate of Dartmouth College, where he studied political science and the news media. He serves as a Trustee of the Institute for Responsible Citizenship, an organization devoted to fostering educational and career opportunities for outstanding young African-American men. Eric was a founding member of the Board of Directors of the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition. He lives near Washington, D.C., with his family.