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Killer Nashville Founder Clay Stafford Launches Independent Publishing House

FRANKLIN — Clay Stafford is widely recognized as an integral part of the mystery, thriller, and suspense writing communities. As founder and CEO of American Blackguard, Inc., Stafford has been involved in all aspects of publishing, film/television, and stage/music production.

In 2006, Stafford founded Killer Nashville, which began as a writers' conference but has since grown into one of the most well-respected and growing resources for writers. Through his work with Killer Nashville, Stafford has been recognized by *Publishers Weekly* as a figure who plays “an essential role in defining which books become bestsellers throughout the nation’s book culture.”

Now Stafford is announcing his latest endeavor: Clay Stafford Books, an independent publishing house based out of Franklin, TN, fifteen minutes south of Nashville.

“For over a decade, we’ve been discovering new writers at Killer Nashville for other major publishing houses,” said Stafford. “We’ll still continue to do that, but it only makes sense that we should also expand our vision and publish the authors we truly love to read.”

Clay Stafford Books has already announced its 2018 summer catalog, which includes three full-length fiction novels: *Paid in Spades* by award-winning author Richard Helms, *The Damage Done* by #1 *New York Times* bestselling author P.J. Parrish, and *Bar None* by award-winning author Cathi Stoler.

Clay Stafford Books will also be releasing *First Kills*, the first installment of the “Killer Nashville Presents . . .” anthology line. The collection will feature short stories from a slew of bestselling and award-winning authors including Jeffery Deaver, Robert Dugoni, Steven James, Anne Perry, John Gilstrap, and more. Additionally, in early 2018, Clay Stafford Books will release the inaugural edition of *Broken Ribbon*, a literary journal created to give a platform for new and burgeoning voices in the writing community.

To learn more, visit www.ClayStaffordBooks.com, www.KillerNashville.com, www.BrokenRibbon.com and www.ClayStafford.com.

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