

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## SCB Distributors and Bancroft Press Announce New Distribution Agreement

Partnership positions Bancroft's current and fall frontlist for major growth across the U.S. and Canadian book trade

**\*\*LA CRESCENTA, CA and GARDENA, CA — June 15, 2026\*\* — SCB Distributors and Bancroft Press** are pleased to announce a new distribution agreement under which SCB will distribute Bancroft Press titles to the book trade in the United States and Canada.

The agreement brings together one of the country's most respected independent trade distributors and one of independent publishing's longest-running, most selective, and most durable literary houses. For Bancroft Press, the move comes at a moment of rising frontlist momentum and unusually strong expectations for the remainder of 2026. For SCB, the agreement adds a seasoned independent publisher with a deep backlist, credible authors, professional publishing systems, and a frontlist poised for meaningful growth.

Founded in 1988, SCB Distributors has built its reputation on long-term, equitable partnerships with independent publishers. SCB distributes thousands of titles from independent presses and represents books across the full range of trade channels, including independent bookstores, chains, wholesalers, libraries, online retailers, specialty accounts, museum stores, regional bookseller associations, and national trade shows.

Bancroft Press, founded in 1992 by Bruce L. Bortz, has long been known for serious, high-quality trade publishing across fiction, memoir, history, biography, young adult fiction, and narrative nonfiction. Its books have earned starred trade reviews, national media attention, awards, Hollywood interest, and enduring backlist life.

"This is exactly the kind of partnership Bancroft needed at exactly the right time," said **Bruce L. Bortz**, founder and publisher of Bancroft Press. "Aaron Silverman and SCB understand independent publishing. They understand the book trade. They understand that a small publisher can be serious, selective, professional, ambitious, and built for the long haul. Bancroft is coming into this agreement with strong books, real momentum, and a frontlist that I believe can move far beyond our historic volume."

"We are delighted to welcome Bancroft Press to SCB," said **Aaron Silverman**, president and founder of SCB Distributors. "Bancroft is a class act. Bruce Bortz has built a distinctive, principled, and enduring publishing house, and we are excited to bring Bancroft's current and forthcoming titles to our accounts throughout the United States and Canada."

The agreement arrives as Bancroft's 2026 list begins to accelerate.

Among the key current and forthcoming titles are:

**DEFROSTED**, publishing shortly, which Bancroft expects to become one of its strongest near-term titles, with strong projected sales. **DEFROSTED** by **Dr. Cristina LePort**, publishing in June 2026, is a high-concept medical and political thriller that combines cryonics, bioengineering, government power, ethical crisis, and a near-apocalyptic biological threat. Set two centuries in the future, the novel follows a cryogenically preserved scientist revived into a heavily regulated world on the brink of extinction, where his buried knowledge may be the only hope of stopping "Mitocancer," a mysterious blue organism capable of devouring everything in its path.

The book has already drawn unusually strong early attention. **David Baldacci**, the global #1 bestselling author with more than 150 million copies sold worldwide, praised *DEFROSTED* as a thriller that "start[s] off with a bang," calling its setup "smart," its research "impressive," and its characters "crackerjack." **Kirkus Reviews** gave the book a starred review, calling it "part science, part politics, and completely riveting." **Parade.com** spotlighted the Baldacci endorsement in a feature telling thriller readers that the novel "should be on your reading list," and Bancroft expects additional national exposure from a forthcoming **AARP.com** article.

Drawing on LePort's background as a retired cardiologist, researcher, biotech founder, and author of the medical thrillers *Dissection* and *Change of Heart*, *DEFROSTED* offers the kind of ambitious, idea-driven suspense that reaches beyond standard genre boundaries. Bancroft expects the title to become one of its strongest near-term performers.

**MIRIAM IN THE SHADOWS** by **John Winn Miller**, newly published, is the third installment in Miller's acclaimed Peggy C Saga and moves the series into the covert world of World War II espionage, deception operations, intelligence rivalries, and behind-enemy-lines danger. The novel follows Miriam Maduro, a Jewish Special Operations Executive agent, as she parachutes into Nazi-occupied northern France weeks before D-Day to infiltrate a fortified enemy V-2 rocket installation.

The advance praise has been extraordinary. **Mark Sullivan**, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Beneath a Scarlet Sky*, called the book "deeply researched and tautly told" and "highly recommended." **Alan Furst**, one of the defining names in modern espionage fiction, called it "a taut and compelling example of World War II fiction and a fine historical thriller." **Steve Berry**, #1 New York Times and internationally bestselling author, praised its "fascinating characters," "engaging premise," and "taut, tight" pacing. **James Grady**, author of *Six Days of the Condor*, praised Miller's blend of historical fact and human fiction, while **James Stejskal**, a former Special Forces and CIA officer, said that as a historian of special operations and espionage, he had rarely encountered a novel that evoked "true life" so powerfully.

Critics have responded in the same register. BestThrillers.com called *Miriam in the Shadows* an “electrifying World War II spy thriller,” Midwest Book Review called it “thoroughly absorbing,” and Manhattan Book Review awarded it five stars, praising its crisp prose, visceral danger, and respect for both subject and audience.

Bancroft expects *MIRIAM IN THE SHADOWS* to sell strongly, with additional upside from thriller readers, historical-fiction readers, World War II audiences, book clubs, libraries, and film/television interest.

**JUDGMENT TREE** is the wild card in Bancroft’s current list: the kind of serious, distinctive, high-potential title that has long defined the press. Bancroft has built its reputation on publishing books that do not fit neatly into a single commercial box but reward readers looking for substance, voice, moral pressure, and narrative force. *JUDGMENT TREE* fits that tradition. Its sales may begin modestly, but Bancroft believes it has the potential to surprise as readers, reviewers, librarians, and booksellers discover it.

Those three titles will be followed by two major fall 2026 non-fiction books that Bancroft believes could represent a decisive step-change in the press’s annual volume.

The first is **GREAT AMERICAN PRESIDENTS** by **Dr. Allan J. Lichtman**, the renowned presidential historian, American University professor, political analyst, and creator of the widely known “Keys to the White House” forecasting system. Scheduled for publication on **September 22, 2026**, *Great American Presidents* examines twelve presidents whose leadership transformed the nation, from George Washington and Thomas Jefferson through Abraham Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Ronald Reagan.

Drawing on decades of scholarship and public commentary, Lichtman offers a rigorous, accessible, and often provocative examination of presidential greatness. The book combines narrative history with a comparative framework for evaluating leadership, ambition, crisis management, moral vision, institutional change, and lasting national impact.

Bancroft expects *Great American Presidents* to become a major trade, library, academic, media, and general-interest history title, with projected sales equating to a trade bestseller, with a very long sales tail

The second major fall title is **A SERIES OF OPINIONATED ANIMALS** by **Michelle Lerner**, a Harvard Law School graduate, and animal rights attorney whose prior book, *RING*, made the prestigious Aspen Words long list, and writer. Her fall memoir chronicles the unforgettable animals who shaped her life and moral imagination. The book introduces readers to a fiercely individual cast of animals—including a chicken who attacks people, a squirrel in love with a rabbit, a three-legged sheep, a disabled former police horse, rescue dogs, cats, and other singular companions.

The memoir has already drawn exceptional pre-publication praise. **Sy Montgomery**, New York Times bestselling author of *The Good Good Pig* and *How to Be a Good Creature*,

called the book “often hilarious, occasionally heartbreaking, and always compassionate.” Other early praise has come from Gwen Cooper, Gene Baur of Farm Sanctuary, Kristen Stilt of Harvard University’s Animal Law & Policy Program, Laurie Zaleski of Funny Farm Rescue & Sanctuary, and leaders in animal law, animal protection, rescue, and advocacy.

Bancroft expects *A Series of Opinionated Animals* to benefit from partnerships and promotional support involving several of the country’s largest animal organizations.

Taken together, Bancroft currently expects its remaining 2026 volume to be driven by a combination of immediate frontlist demand, fall season media potential, institutional appeal, specialty-market opportunities, and SCB’s national sales and distribution reach.

“This is not business as usual for Bancroft,” Bortz said. “The volume is markedly picking up. We have several titles with real trade upside, and two fall books that could change the scale of the company. *Great American Presidents* has the author platform, subject, timing, and seriousness to become a major bestseller. *A Series of Opinionated Animals* has the warmth, humor, emotional power, and organizational support to reach far beyond the usual memoir audience. With SCB behind us, we are much better positioned to turn that potential into actual sell-through.”

SCB’s distribution infrastructure includes experienced sales representation throughout the United States and Canada, access to major wholesalers and retail accounts, visibility through Edelweiss and seasonal catalogs, and participation in major book fairs, regional trade shows, and conventions. SCB’s model is designed for independent publishers with established lists, regular publishing schedules, strong backlists, credible authors, and authentic marketing plans.

For Bancroft, the new agreement represents both a logistical upgrade and a strategic reset.

“For more than thirty years, Bancroft has survived by publishing good books, standing by and working closely its authors, and doing more with less than almost anyone else in the business,” Bortz said. “This agreement gives us a chance to do more with more: better trade access, better visibility, better fulfillment, better sales coordination, and a distributor that treats independent publishers with respect. I’m very happy about it, and I know Aaron is happy about it too.”

The companies expect the partnership to support Bancroft’s active backlist, current frontlist, and upcoming seasonal titles as the press moves into what may be one of the most commercially significant periods in its history.

## About SCB Distributors

Founded in 1988 and based in Gardena, California, SCB Distributors is a privately owned trade book distributor serving the United States and Canada. SCB works with independent publishers across a wide range of categories and sells through bookstores, wholesalers, libraries, online retailers, specialty stores, gift accounts, museum stores, trade shows, and

international channels. SCB is known for responsive management, independent-publisher focus, national sales representation, and long-term publisher-distributor relationships.

## About Bancroft Press

Founded in 1992 by Bruce L. Bortz, Bancroft Press is an independent trade publisher based in La Crescenta, California. Bancroft publishes fiction, memoir, history, biography, young adult fiction, thrillers, and narrative nonfiction. Its books have earned starred reviews, awards, national media coverage, bestseller recognition, and film and television interest. Bancroft is known for publishing serious, distinctive, high-quality books across a wide range of genres.

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