

About the Author

Douglas Gillies was born in California and raised in Ontario, Canada. He practiced law in the San Francisco Bay Area for sixteen years after graduating from UCLA.

As a trial lawyer, Gillies found that courtroom proceedings tended to look back into the past to determine who was at fault and how much it was going to cost. As the environment steadily declined and the forecasts for our civilization became increasingly bleak, Gillies looked for ways to adapt the tools used by lawyers in the courtroom to assist groups and individuals to solve problems that were appearing on the horizon.



In 1990, he organized Concensus Designs to produce town meetings, think tanks and retreats where Common Law principles were used to examine global issues and solve complex problems. He is currently conducting a series of forums about community readiness for the National Institute for Urban Search and Rescue. He has produced six documentaries, including *On the Edge*, a wake-up call about the state of the world—featuring Mikhail Gorbachev, Jane Goodall, Ted Turner, Huston Smith, Oren Lyons, Carl Sagan, and Robert Muller.

Gillies began documenting Robert Muller's life in 1994, first interviewing him for television and then producing *Passion*, an audiocassette in which Muller talks about lessons learned at the United Nations and how they relate to the meaning of life and death. The author came to believe that Muller's life made sense of the 20th Century and offered an example of how one person can make a difference. The challenges faced by Muller at the United Nations pointed to the possibility of a better future.

Douglas Gillies lives in Southern California.