

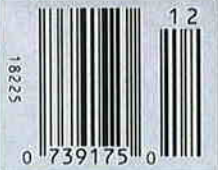
DENIS LEARY ON ST. PATRICK'S GAEL GREENE ON GIANT FOOD

\$2.95 • MARCH 20, 1995

NEW YORK

THE
BEST
LAWYERS
IN
NEW YORK

BY ROBIN POGREBIN



Gerald B. Lefcourt

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Lefcourt, 51, has styled himself as a rebel lawyer who takes on the system and doesn't worry about stepping on a few toes in the name of principle. In the sixties and seventies, he defended activist Abbie Hoffman and the Black Panthers. More recently, he cleared former New York State Assembly speaker Mel Miller of mail-fraud charges involving the co-oping of a Brooklyn building. And just last December, he sued the Internal Revenue Service to block them from forcing lawyers to disclose the identities of clients who have paid them more than \$10,000 in cash, on the grounds that it violated attorney-client privilege. Although one attorney says Lefcourt can be a "hothead" sometimes, his level of commitment is widely admired. "It's one thing to be interested in the case," says one attorney. "It's a second thing to be concerned with a sense of injustice in the way in which the process works, and Jerry has that to a very high degree."