Criminal Law and Criminology: Survey of Recent Books

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RECENT BOOKS

CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY: A SURVEY OF RECENT BOOKS

JULIET M. CASPER*

ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT

INTERMEDIATE SANCTIONS IN OVERCROWDED TIMES (Michael Tonry & Kate Hamilton eds.) (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1995) 219 pp.

The articles in this work first appeared in Overcrowded Times, a bi-monthly journal supported by the Justice Program of the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation. Faced with rising incarceration costs and prison overcrowding, communities in the United States and Europe are examining various forms of intermediate sanctions. The authors discuss the recent research and policy developments in this area. Monetary penalties, community service, and electronic monitoring are just a few of the options currently in use.

CHILDREN AS WITNESSES—UNITED STATES


From the Salem Witch Hunt to the Little Rascals Day Care, this work illustrates investigative methods and factors that influence the testimony of children. In order to better evaluate and understand children’s statements, the authors argue that mental health professionals, forensic investigators, attorneys, and judges should incorporate the findings of sci-

entific research into their work with children. The failure to eliminate techniques that contaminate testimony may result in the exclusion of children’s statements from the courtroom. The authors specifically address the role of interviewer bias, stereotype induction and other suggestive interviewing techniques, the use of anatomically correct dolls, and the role of suggestion in the recovery of repressed memories.

**College Students—Crimes Against—United States**


The compilers of this work have selected essays from criminologists, political scientists, sociologists, lawyers, and security experts that reflect the current research and policy implications of campus crime. No longer the "dirty little secret of higher education," campus crime has moved into the legal arena. Courts have begun to impose liability on institutions, and legislatures have enacted right-to-know laws and crime reporting laws. This work examines both the legal and social context of campus crime, in addition to the issues involving campus security and policing. Future directions for research are suggested.

**Computer Crimes**


As reporters for *Newsday*, these authors followed the activities of the hacker gang known as the Masters of Deception. Their narrative provides a glimpse into the secret world of computer hackers. What motivates these people? How do they evade computer security specialists and law enforcement officials? Members of the Masters of Deception repeatedly tapped into the computers of the New York telephone system and were held responsible for a crash that occurred in January of 1990. Felony convictions, though, did not deter the computer industry from making offers to many of the gang members.

Originally a training manual for FBI special agents, this handbook is essential reading for all those confronting computer crimes, either within law enforcement, the justice system, or the business sector. While a number of detection tools are available, most organizations do not use such tools, and an estimated 85-97% of computer intrusions go unnoticed. This book will provide the reader with an understanding of how computers can be protected against criminal activities, how those protections may be circumvented, how evidence of computer crimes should be gathered, and how computer crimes can be successfully prosecuted. In addition, federal, state, and international laws are discussed, and a profile of offenders and their common targets is given. Interestingly, an introductory message in the book comes from Chris Goggan, former leader of the Legion of Doom computer hacker gang.

Criminal Investigation—United States—Case Studies


The destruction of Pan Am flight 103, the World Trade Center bombing, and the Polly Klaas kidnapping and murder are just a few examples of the mysterious cases solved by the FBI crime laboratory everyday. Fisher traces the history and development of this famous lab with a chapter on each of the lab's special units. Many of the collection and detection methods employed in crime labs across the country today were first developed in the FBI's lab.

Criminal Justice, Administration of—United States


This book reports the results of the third national survey conducted by the ABA's Special Committee on Funding the Justice System. The survey asked representatives of the justice system in each state about budget cuts, layoffs and hiring freezes, docket delays, prison or jail overcrowding,
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public defender caseloads, and filing fees. Organized by state, the report highlights the significant crime measures, as well as the innovative methods, employed to handle the rising civil and criminal caseloads. Habitual offender laws and sentencing reform were common trends in 1994.


During the 1988 Presidential election, George Bush used the Willie Horton case to embarrass his opponent Michael Dukakis. Willie Horton, a convicted murderer in a Massachusetts prison for life without parole, was granted furlough privileges under a program supported by then-Governor Dukakis. Horton failed to return from furlough in the summer of 1986 and was not discovered by law enforcement officials until April of 1987 when Horton was arrested and indicted on forty-four counts that included burglary, assault, rape, and false imprisonment and kidnapping. In addition to chronicling the Horton case and its effect on the presidential race, the author uses the case to illustrate the shift in America towards expressive justice.


By viewing the English criminal justice system through American lenses, the authors are able to draw comparisons between the two countries and to highlight their differences. The police, the legal system, and corrections are three focus areas for the authors. Specific policy changes for either country are not offered.

EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION—UNITED STATES


Summarizing the research published in psychology and interdisciplinary scientific journals, the authors examine whether the procedural safeguards that protect defendants from erroneous convictions based upon a mistaken eyewitness-
ness identification are adequate. While cases of mistaken identification and false imprisonment are well-documented in the legal and popular literature, judges continue to resist the introduction of testimony from psychological experts, who seek to educate the jurors about memory processes and influences. The authors argue that it is these very experts that can best safeguard defendants from erroneous convictions.

**Female Offenders—United States**


The extent and nature of female crime is explored in this work which weaves together a number of theories and statistics. The author believes that there are biological, sociological, psychological, and situational variables that affect, influence, and deter female crime. Special attention is given to domestic violence, substance abuse, and homicide.

**Gangs—California—Los Angeles County**


This book is a step by step guide to establishing a community program to combat the problem of gangs and drugs. It is geared towards non-lawyers and focuses on the logistics of such of a program. Some of the topics covered include creating a community identity, producing a newsletter, starting school programs, and training parents to enhance their children's self-esteem.

**Homicide—Research—United States—Congresses**


This research report is a collection of the papers presented at the annual workshop sponsored by the Homicide Re-
search Working Group. Scholars examined recent and long term trends for homicide in the United States, international violence patterns, violence against women, youth and violence, violence in the workplace, and gun-related violence. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, a sponsor of the workshop, provided an overview of the Center's violence surveillance activities.

**Juries—United States**


The author suspects that the law that appears on the books, the statutes and caselaw, is at odds with the commonsense justice of jurors, the intuitive notions of fairness that jurors bring into the jury box. He finds support for his belief in case studies, philosophy, literature, and history. Jury nullification is often present in cases involving the right to die, the death penalty, self-defense, and the insanity plea. Jurors in such cases may disagree with the provisions of the law or with the sentence to be imposed.

**Jury Selection—United States**


A nationally recognized speaker and author in the area of jury trials, the author describes in depth the skills necessary to conduct effective voir dire and jury selection. He illustrates with numerous examples the common problems and questions that arise in voir dire. He urges attorneys to probe into jurors' opinions and experiences, all the while observing visual and auditorial clues to their anxiety. Sample jury questionnaires and forms are provided in the appendices.

**Juvenile Delinquency—United States**


Musick's work is intended to be an introductory textbook for undergraduate students in a juvenile delinquency
course. Taking a comparative-historical approach, he provides information about delinquents and other problem children, such as status offenders and dependents. In addition, he traces the development of children's law and juvenile courts from Colonial America to recent U.S. court decisions. The parent-child relationship is viewed as an important indicator of the risk for delinquency, and schools are seen as social vehicles that both cause and prevent such behavior. Musick makes numerous suggestions for improving the U.S. system of juvenile justice, including the establishment of a separate juvenile police department.


Pulling together the most requested information on juveniles and the juvenile justice system, this report is an invaluable tool for those searching for statistics and trends in this area. It is designed as a series of briefing papers with topics ranging from juvenile population characteristics to juveniles in correctional institutions.

POLICE PSYCHOLOGY


In an effort to "convince police officers of the value of psychology," Ainsworth explores ways in which psychological concepts, theories, and techniques can be used, and are being used, in police departments in Britain and the United States. He believes that more communication skills must be taught, including appropriate and inappropriate interview techniques. The cognitive interview technique, for example, could be used to successfully prompt the memory of a witness to a crime.


The sixteen essays in this work focus on either psychology and routine police duties or psychology and the police organization. Some of the specific topics discussed include
conflict resolution, information retrieval, cultural awareness and sensitivity, cognitive interview techniques, face reconstruction, integrity testing, and the effect of shift-work on performance.

Prison Sentences—United States—Evaluation


The “get tough on crime” legislation of the past two decades appears to have had a counter-intuitive effect, according to this author. Using a comparative state framework, Wicharaya has evaluated the sentencing reform legislation in forty-nine states and developed a theory to explain the causal links among policies, sentencing behavior, prison populations, and crime rates. He finds that limiting judicial discretion in sentencing does not produce less crime or more incarcerations, two results intended by the legislatures. More research on the dynamics of the court community is needed to avoid outcomes contrary to legislative policies.

Rapists—Ohio—Case Studies


This engaging narrative puts the reader inside the mind of serial rapist Ronnie Shelton. Shelton eluded Cleveland police detectives for five years, committing rape after rape. Neff, an investigative reporter, interviewed the survivors, police officials, psychiatrists, and Shelton himself for this exposé of an overtaxed police department. For Neff, the “unfinished murder” is the emotional and psychological aftermath suffered by each of Shelton’s rape victims.

Rural Crimes—United States


Criminal justice research has basically ignored rural
America. Dr. Weisheit argues that rural areas have distinctive problems with crime and law enforcement and should be the focus of more studies. Rural areas are becoming the production and shipment centers for illegal drugs. In addition, urban street gangs are establishing satellite operations in small towns. The demographics, culture, and economic development of these areas affects the level of service law enforcement agencies can provide. Dr. Weisheit presents the issues facing small towns and suggests patterns for further study.

**SEX DISCRIMINATION IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION—UNITED STATES**


Studying female professionals, offenders, and victims from Colonial America to the present time, the authors provide a historical perspective and the contemporary reality of women in the criminal justice system. Historically women have been underrepresented in this system, and the correctional programs have been based on male offender research. The authors find that “[a]lthough some significant strides have been made in dealing with victims of rape and domestic violence, much remains to be done in the areas of women’s health, drug use, treatment of women offenders, employment and sexual harassment and awareness prevention.”

**SEX OFFENDERS—LAW AND LEGISLATION**


A federal crime bill passed in August of 1994 encourages states to create registries of sex offenders, or face a ten percent reduction in federal crime control grant money. Roughly forty states have enacted registration laws for sex offenders. Thomas and Lieb discuss the arguments for and against such registries and present a state by state guide. Community notification programs often accompany these registration laws.