

.The. Criminal Justice System

An Introduction

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FOURTH EDITION

Ronald J. Waldron

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

An Introduction

FOURTH EDITION



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Preface

This book views the criminal justice system as a whole composed of many subsystems—the police, the prosecutors, the courts, and corrections, including probation and parole. It describes the subsystems of the criminal justice system as the authors know them to be—not as they should be.

The system approach has proved viable, and the first, second, and third editions of *The Criminal Justice System* were well received. Since the development of the third edition, however, some major changes have taken place in the criminal justice system, and we have recognized the need to improve and update the text. This fourth edition incorporates the latest developments while retaining the basic organization of previous editions. Illustrations have been revised to reflect the latest facts and figures.

New topics include alternative dispute resolution, career criminal programs, sentencing commissions, sentencing guidelines, privatization of criminal justice activities, biometrics, and electronic home monitoring, to name but a few. To provide for improved documentation of legal points, the citation of relevant legal cases has been expanded considerably. Overall, a concerted effort was made to update material, eliminate redundancies, and organize the text throughout for logical order and consistency.

This book is designed to provide students with basic information on the criminal justice system. The first part of the text places the criminal justice system in proper perspective. Students are first introduced to the nature of law and society in general. The methods for assessing the amount of crime are presented, followed by a brief overview of criminal justice agencies and the criminal justice process. The criminal justice agencies are discussed in the order in which they are usually encountered when an individual goes through the criminal justice process. Sections on the police, the prosecution and defense, the courts, corrections, and probation and parole all follow a pattern: within each of these sections the history, present structure, current functions, and contemporary problems of each major area are thoroughly discussed. The final sections of the text speculate on what the future will bring for the criminal justice system.

A number of pedagogical features have been built into the fourth edition to help students master the material. Each chapter begins with an outline, so that students can quickly see what will be covered, and a statement of purpose, to help students understand exactly what they are supposed to master and why. Over 75 illustrations have been included to assist in the clarification and further development of topics in the text. At the end of each chapter, a summary and a list of key terms will aid students in reviewing material, and a

series of discussion questions will help stimulate thought. An annotated bibliography at the end of each Part will guide the interested student toward additional readings. We have prepared a computerized learning course based on this book. It is available by using the order form in the back of the book or by writing

The Criminal Justice System
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At the back of the text are three appendixes and a glossary. Appendix A is an extremely handy reference for all students of the justice system: the United States Constitution. Appendix B describes the career opportunities available for anyone desiring to pursue a career in the criminal justice field. This is an excellent source of career information and the student might want to retain the text for use in the developing job leads in the latter years of college. Appendix C highlights major criminal law cases according to the functional areas of the criminal justice system. The glossary provides definitions of justice-system terms that every student of criminal justice ought to know.

The authors would like to express their special thanks to Dr. George Killinger, the former Dean of the School of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University. We all at one time or another were students of Dr. Killinger, and his generous giving of his time and resources made the first edition of this textbook a reality over a decade ago. In addition, we would like to thank the reviewers who assisted in the refinement of the text over the years. They include:

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The opinions expressed in this book are the authors' and are not necessarily those of the institutions that employ them.

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Contents

Preface xix

One:

OVERVIEW: THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM 1

1 *Law and Society 2*

Sociology of Law 4

The Evolution of Law 4

The Nature of Law 5

A Normative Legal System 5

General Functions of Law 6

Rule of Law 7

Divisions of Law 8

Substantive Law and Procedural Law 8

Civil Law and Criminal Law 9

Statutory Law and Common Law 9

Sources of Law 11

Nature, Formulation, and Development of Criminal Law 13

Controlling Crime in Primitive Societies 13

Criminal Law in Ancient Greece 14

Criminal Law in Ancient Rome 14

Criminal Law in Medieval England 15

Criminal Law in Colonial America 15

Criminal Law in Postrevolutionary America 17

Contemporary Criminal Law in America 18

Basic Premises of Criminal Law 19

The Principle of Legality 19

Guilty Act (*Actus Reus*) 20

Mental State (*Mens Rea*) 21

Concurrence in Time 21

Harm (an Injury or Result) 22

Causation 22

Legal Analysis 22

Purpose and Object of Criminal Law	23
Deterrence	23
Rehabilitation	25
Restraint	26
Retribution	26
Education	26
Restitution	26
Classification of Crimes	27
Crimes of Social Harm	27
Felonies and Misdemeanors	27
Crimes <i>Mala in Se</i> and <i>Mala Prohibita</i>	28
Infamous and Noninfamous Crimes	28
Crimes of Moral Turpitude	29
Common-Law Crimes and Statutory Crimes	29
Major Crimes and Petty Offenses	29
Chapter Summary	29

2 *Counting Crime* 34

<i>Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)</i>	35
Structure of the UCR Program	36
Uniform Crime Reporting Offenses	36
Data Collection Procedures	37
Data Analysis	38
Trends in Crime	40
Persons Arrested	41
Assessing the Magnitude of Crime	41
UCR Performance	42
Blueprint for the Future UCR Program	44
Victim Survey Research	44
Crime Victimization	47
Some Myths and Realities About Crime	48
The Impact of Crime	53
Chapter Summary	54

3 *The Criminal Justice System* 58

Police	61
Prosecution	62
Criminal Court System	62
Probation	63
Corrections	63
Parole	64
Criminal Justice System as a System	65
The Systems Approach to Criminal Justice	67
Examining the Whole System and Its Parts	67

Understanding Goals and Objectives	68
Stating Goals in Measurable Terms	69
Developing Alternative Systems	70
Long-Range Contributions of the Systems Approach	71
Measuring Effectiveness of Agencies and Programs	71
Resolving Conflicts within the System	71
Setting Criminal Justice System Priorities	71
Short-Range Benefits of the Systems Approach	72
Concentrating on Goals	72
Using a Systems Approach to Criminal Justice Subsystems	73
Limitations of the Systems Approach	73
Omitting Important Goals of the System	73
Assuming That Only the Criminal Justice System Can Be Changed	74
Chapter Summary	74

4 *The Administration of Justice in the United States* 76

Due Process of Law	78
The Adversary System	78
The Criminal Incident	81
Prearrest Investigation	83
Apprehension	84
Constitutional Protections	84
The Arrest	85
Fourth Amendment	86
The Law of Confessions	86
Police Discretion	87
Booking	87
Case Screening	88
Police Interrogation	89
Constitutional Protections	90
Initial Appearance and Bail	91
Release on Bond	91
Release on Recognizance	92
Pretrial Detention	93
Assigned Counsel	93
Investigation	94
Constitutional Protections	94
The Exclusionary Rule	95
Preliminary Hearing	95
Characteristics of the Administration of Criminal Law	96
Trial Court Information Systems	97
The Decision to Charge	99
Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)	99
Career Criminal Programs	100

Grand Jury Indictment or Information 101

Constitutional Protections 101

Arraignment in Court of Trial 103

Exchange Justice 104

Shock Probation 105

Presentence Investigation Reports 106

Guilty Plea 106

Taking the Plea 107

Constitutional Protections 107

A Plea of Not Guilty 108

Filing a Motion 108**Trial 108**

Speedy Trial 109

Right to Trial by Jury 109

Jury Selection Procedures 109

Prosecution's Case 110

The Brady Requirement 110

Defense Motion 110

Defense Case and Prosecution Rebuttal 111

Instructions of the Court to the Jury 111

Arguments to the Jury 111

Charging the Jury 111

Deliberation and Verdict 112

Sentencing 112

Appeals 113***Habeas Corpus* 114****Juvenile Justice System 114****Juvenile Proceedings 115**

Preadjudicatory Phase 115

Adjudicatory Hearing 116

Dispositional Hearing 117

Chapter Summary 117*Part One: Annotated Bibliography 120****Two:*****THE POLICE 123****5 *History and Development of Police* 124****Early English Development 127**

Frankpledge System (A.D. 800) 127

Origin of Modern Policing 129**Nineteenth-Century Developments in England 129****Twentieth-Century Developments in England 131****Police Development in the United States 132**

Municipal and County Law Enforcement 132

State Law Enforcement	133
Federal Law Enforcement	135

Chapter Summary 136

6 *Law Enforcement in the United States 138*

Law Enforcement: A Legal Construct	140
Federal Law Enforcement	140
State Law Enforcement	141
Local Law Enforcement	142
County Law Enforcement	142
Municipal Law Enforcement	143
Regional Policing	144
Special and Auxiliary Police	145
Nongovernmental Police: Private Security	145
Coordination and Cooperation of Police	147
Contract Law Enforcement	147
Coordination of Federal Resources	148
Interpol	148
Chapter Summary	150

7 *Police Management, Organization, and Operations 152*

Police Organization	153
Primary Line Functions	153
Secondary Line Functions	154
Nonline Functions	154
Staff Services	154
Auxiliary Services	154
Principles of Organization	155
Homogeneous Assignment (Division of Labor)	155
Unity of Command	155
Chain of Command	156
Delegation of Responsibility and Authority	157
Delineation of Responsibility and Authority	157
Span of Control	157
Objective	157
Coordination	157
Time	158
Territory	158
Clientele	159
Police Operations	159
Patrol	159
Traffic	162
Criminal Investigation	164
Intelligence, Terrorism, and Negotiations	166
Chapter Summary	167

8 *Contemporary Issues in Law Enforcement* 170

Role of the Police 172

Maintenance of Order 172

Law Enforcement 172

Service 173

Personnel 174

Civil Service 174

Civilians in Law Enforcement 175

Volunteers in Law Enforcement 175

The Assessment Center 176

Minority Recruitment 177

Personnel Training 177

Minimum Standards 178

Personnel Selection 179

Women Police Officers 180

Executive Training 180

Police Education 181

Law Enforcement Accreditation 182

Lawsuits Against and by Police Officers 183

Interagency Cooperation 183

Concurrent Jurisdiction: Federal Cooperation Against Drugs 185

Police Reorganization 185

Police Rethinking 187

Productivity 187

Police Unions 188

Crime Prevention 189

Crime Analysis 190

Research and Planning 191

Issues in Perspective: An Integrated Solution 192

Chapter Summary 194

Part Two: Annotated Bibliography 196

Three:

PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE 199

9 *History and Structure of Advocacy* 200

The Development of the Law Profession 201

The History of Prosecutorial Services 202

Development of Prosecution in America 204

United States Attorney General 206

State and Local Attorneys General 206

The Prosecutor Selection Process 209

Models of Prosecutorial Behavior 210

Influence of the Contemporary Prosecutor	211
Chapter Summary	211

10 *The State's Advocate* 214

Screening and Diversion	217
Decision to Prosecute	217
Preliminary Hearing	218
Indictment and Information	219
Pretrial Negotiations	220
Arraignment	223
Trial	224
Chapter Summary	226

11 *The Defendant's Advocate* 228

Defense Delivery Services	230
Defense Consultation	234
Role of the Defense	236
Assessing Criminal Defenders	236
Chapter Summary	237

12 *Contemporary Issues in Advocacy* 240

Improving the Offices of the Prosecutor and Public Defender	241
Status Pay	242
Advocacy Training	243
Working with the Police	244
Minimizing Discretion	245
Deciding the Charge	247
Suggesting Informal Alternatives to Prosecution	247
Examining the Role of the Grand Jury	248
Appointing a Public Defender	248
Controlling the Power of the Advocates	249
Chapter Summary	250
Part Three: Annotated Bibliography	251

Four: **COURTS** 253

13 *Developmental History of Courts* 254

Origin of Courts	256
Courts from Antiquity Through the Middle Ages	257

Development of Modern Courts	257
England	258
Europe	259
Other Continents	259
Development of Courts in the United States	259
Contemporary Courts	260
Chapter Summary	266

14 ***Structure of the Courts in the United States*** **268**

Federal Court System	270
United States Supreme Court	270
United States Courts of Appeals	272
District Courts	274
Military Court System	274
Grade of Court-Martial	275
Safeguards	276
United States Court of Military Appeals	276
State Court System	276
Variety of State Courts	276
Levels of State Courts	277
Juvenile Court System	282
Chapter Summary	284

15 ***Functions of the Courts*** **286**

Interfaces	287
Pretrial	289
Warrants	289
Presentment/Initial Hearing	291
Bail	291
Disposition of Misdemeanors	293
Preliminary Hearing, Information, Return of Grand Jury Indictment	294
Arraignment	294
Pretrial Motions	295
Trial	296
Petit Jury	296
Evidence	297
Witnesses	297
Closing the Trial	298
Sentencing	299
Objectives of Sentencing	299
Sentence Hearing Factors	300
Sentencing Alternatives and Diversion	300
Postconviction Remedies	301
Appeal	301

Appellate Review	301
Other Postconviction Remedies	302
Chapter Summary	302

16 ***Court Issues and Problems*** **304**

Court Lag	305
Dual Court System and Unification of State Systems	307
Overlap and Conflict	307
Court Unification	308
Quality of Judicial Personnel	310
Qualifications and Training	310
Selection	311
Role	311
Termination	311
Prosecutor's Effect on the Court	312
Court Management of Juries	312
Witnesses	313
Support Personnel of the Court	313
The Clerk of Court	313
Court Administrators	314
Court Reporters	314
Bailiffs	314
The Press and the Courts	315
Television in the Courts	315
Chapter Summary	316
<i>Part Four: Annotated Bibliography</i>	<i>317</i>

Five:

CORRECTIONS **319**

17 ***Background and History of Corrections*** **320**

The European Heritage	321
Development of the American Prison System	322
Early Development (1600–1830)	322
The Systems of the 1800s	323
The Reform Era	323
The Industrial Era	324
Recent Prison Development	324
Women's Reformatories	325
Coed Prisons	325
Work Camps	326
Jails	326

Juvenile Training School	327
Juvenile Detention Centers	328
History of Community-based Corrections	328
Community Residential Centers	328
Community Treatment Programs	329
Chapter Summary	329

18 *Correctional Organizations* **332**

Concept of Corrections	333
Types of Correctional Organizations	334
Federal Correctional Organizations	334
Military Correctional Organizations	336
State Correctional Organizations	337
Formal Prison Organizations	338
Informal Prison Organizations	340
Local Correctional Organizations	341
Jails	341
Predelinquent Centers	343
Community Residential Centers	344
Chapter Summary	344

19 *Functions of Correctional Organizations* **346**

Management and Administration	348
Planning and Policy	348
Facilities Design, Construction, and Management	349
Fiscal Operations	349
Personnel Management	349
Research and Evaluation	349
Custody and Control	350
Security	350
Control Procedures	351
Reception and Intake	352
Classification	353
Correctional Services	353
Food Service	353
Medical Service	354
Inmate Legal Services	355
Correctional Treatment	355
Industry and Agriculture Programs	355
Prisoner or Client Services	356
Counseling, Therapy, and Individual Evaluation	357
Work Furlough	358
Education and Recreation	358
Prerelease Counseling	359
Chapter Summary	359

20 *Current Issues and Problems Facing Correctional Institutions* **362**

- The Public** 363
- The Police** 364
- The Prosecutor** 364
- The Courts** 364
- The Legislatures** 365
- Working in and Managing Our Institutions** 366
 - Role Dilemma and Correctional Workers 366
 - Education and Training 366
 - Management 367
 - Local Jails 367
- Problems Inside Our Institutions** 368
 - Overcrowding 368
 - Prison Disturbances 369
 - Classification 369
 - Prison Facilities and Environment 369
 - Prison Industries 370
- Areas of Recent Development** 370
 - Standards and Accreditation 370
 - Community Corrections 371
 - Physical and Mental Health Programs 372
 - Treatment Programs 373
 - Private Corrections 373
 - Integrated Corrections Systems 374
- Chapter Summary** 374
- Part Five: Annotated Bibliography* 377

Six:

PROBATION AND PAROLE **379**

21 *History and Process of Probation* **380**

- Definition of Probation** 381
- Philosophy and Objective** 382
- Historical Perspectives** 382
- The Probation Process** 384
- Probation Administration and Organization** 385
- Application and Eligibility** 385
- Juvenile Probation** 386
 - Intake and Screening 386
 - Social Study and Diagnosis 387
 - Supervision and Treatment 387
 - Auxiliary Programs 388

Misdemeanant Probation	388
Presentence Report	388
Revocation of Probation	389
Chapter Summary	390

22 *Problems and Recent Developments in Probation* 392

Probation versus Imprisonment	395
Funding	395
Public Attitudes	396
Lack of Skilled Personnel	396
Role Conflict	397
Case Load	398
Intensive Probation Supervision	398
Use of Prediction	399
Probation Subsidy Programs	399
Volunteers in Probation	400
Research and Evaluation	401
Public Awareness	401
Establishment of Standards	402
Cooperation and Coordination of Components	402
Chapter Summary	403

23 *History and Process of Parole* 406

Definition of Parole	407
Philosophy and Objective	408
Historical Perspectives	409
The Parole Process	410
Parole Eligibility	412
Parole Selection	412
Supervision, Control, and Guidance	414
Conditions of Parole and Its Revocation	415
Contract Parole	416
Chapter Summary	416

24 *Problems and Recent Developments in Parole* 418

Lack of Goals	420
Fragmented System	420
Lack of Skilled Personnel	421
Role Conflict	421
Parole Board Members	421
Individual Rights	421