

Francis X. Hartmann

Editor

From  
to  
**Children  
Citizens**

Volume II

*The Role of the  
Juvenile Court*



Springer-Verlag

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# From Children to Citizens

Volume II

## The Role of the Juvenile Court



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*To James Weissman,  
a valued friend and colleague  
who did justice to children  
and their communities*

# Preface

The issues around which the juvenile justice system is centered frequently evoke anger and impatience. These emotions arise because the issues are so important and movement concerning them seems nonexistent. The persons who are involved with those same issues, however, elicit respect and, often, affection.

The Executive Sessions of the Kennedy School of Government combined the two elements—issues and persons—with the stated goal of advancing fruitful and effective public policy. The Executive Session on the Future of the Juvenile Justice System, over a period of almost two years, regularly brought to the same table people who understood the issues well, who were professionally and personally invested in certain positions on the issues, and who were willing to engage themselves fully in the exchange of ideas, both theoretical and practical, which an Executive Session demands. I had the privilege of chairing the meetings of the Session.

This book is one of the products of that process. As the editor, I take certain positions regarding the future of the juvenile justice system and what the system should look like ten years from now. Not every member of the Session will fully agree with what I see as the pivotal role of the court in that system. Part of that may be due to an inability to effectively communicate a new vision of the responsibilities of the court, leading to a version of the court different from that now in place. But part is undoubtedly due to the fact that, pure and simple, there was disagreement among those who participated in the Executive Session. But those in disagreement would still acknowledge that what we have written is quite different from what we would have written and espoused before the Executive Session began.

We heard, and continue to hear, the experienced voices of Ellen Schall,

Orlando Martinez, Sidney Dwoskin, Jim Rowland, and Ned Murphy, all of whom bear very real burdens for the day-to-day care of thousands of children. We heard the passion, around different positions, of Judges Gladstone, Quinn, White, and Milligan. Who could not but be moved by the reasoned, caring logic of Janet Fink and Barbara Flicker? And the thoughtful insights of Cathy Ryan and the late Jim Weissman and incisive comments of Mark Sidran showed us that prosecutors are very different from their stereotypes. The same should be said of Lee Brown and Hubert Williams, who, as chiefs of police, might have been expected to be hard-liners. Instead, they were statesmen. Jim Brown educated us about alternatives to the court; Donna Hamparian about violent offenders; Dick Barnum about responsibility; and Don McCorkell reminded us again of the breadth of vision achieved by responsible state legislators. Robbie Calloway was evidence of the strength of private nonprofit organizations. Michael Smith and Peter Greenwood each had a special way of thinking about issues and of sharing that gift with others. Phil Cook and Lloyd Ohlin, the latter the dean of academics addressing juvenile justice issues, brought imagination and intellect to the enterprise.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention funded the Executive Session, and Alfred Regnery, Jim Wootton, and Pam Swain participated fully. It is a mark of their professionalism and competence that, while they demanded that the Session produce tangible results, they never attempted in any way to influence the character of those results.

Each member of the Session was carefully chosen, and the enterprise would have been diminished if any one had been absent. The loss of Jim Weissman in mid-Session is evidence of that. We are in debt to those who gave generously of their time and talent.

Mark Moore's work, in a companion volume of this report, while clearly consisting of his own opinions, is informed by the other members of the Session. The same is true of my conclusion to this volume, as well as the chapters written by the other members of the Session. Each are different from what would have been written had the authors not been members of the Session. As a whole, then, this volume and its companions argue that, amidst the anger, impatience, respect, and affection, there is a hope for a new way to conceptualize the problem of juveniles at risk. There are new roles, especially for the court as it relates to and works with the community, and there is a need for further research on specific programmatic efforts.

Special thanks are due to my colleagues Mark Moore and George Kelling. Mark was a driving intellectual force in the discussions of the Session. George, too, played a critical and pivotal role in the discussions because, while better known for his creative work in the police field, he brought to the Session years of extensive and caring experience working with troubled children.

Mary Alice Sloan graciously organized Executive Session logistics.

Susan Michaelson flawlessly carried the burdens of coordinating the publication of the three companion volumes. Gaylen Moore was the thoughtful final editor of the papers. And Betsy Meinhold's calm efficiency in production was always more effective than my own excessive urgency.

Finally, I am impossibly grumpy while writing. My wife, Karen Goldthwaite Hartmann has been wonderfully patient and quietly supportive. Thank you Karen.

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The points of view or opinions in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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# Section I

## Socializing Children: The Community's Interest



