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The Offender in the Community

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Preface

We decided to write The Offender in the Community because the study of offenders under community-based correctional supervision is neglected and very often misunderstood. When students think of offenders under community sanctions, they too often think of extremes. They may believe that people placed on probation have "gotten off" when they should have been in prison or jail, or that offenders under parole supervision are there for "counseling and rehabilitation." Today, teaching the subject focuses on traditional agencies such as probation, parole, and diversion, even though many offenders under community sanctions are no longer handled in these traditional ways. In writing this book, we have described how the extreme views that most people take toward offenders in the community are often not backed up by the facts. We also stress how the traditional agencies have, in recent years, changed their philosophies in important ways and upgraded their technical capacities as well. The result is an issues-oriented text that stresses both the innovations in the field and the important challenges facing those who do this kind of work.

This book provides a thoroughly modern approach to community-based corrections. It is comprehensive and logically organized and presents in a balanced fashion all the alternatives to institutionalization, including electronic monitoring, house arrest, day treatment, boot camps, and fines. The book also emphasizes the human aspects of this growing field. It is intended for courses on community-based corrections or probation and parole for students in departments of criminal justice and sociology in two- and four-year schools. After reading this book, students should understand that the development of community corrections is essential for the future of the criminal justice system. We hope that our concern and interest in the topic of community corrections has been reflected in the book.

Key Features

The major features of this text are the following:

- Balanced coverage of the wide range of community-based corrections emphasizing much more than probation and parole; also included are the wide range of alternative sanctions and risk assessment.
- A thoroughly researched book that includes the most policy, research, and application.
- Forward-thinking approach to community corrections: more on alternative sanctions such as electronic monitoring, house arrest, day treatment, boot camps, and fines than found in other books.
- Extensive pedagogical aids: chapter outlines, boldfaced key terms, chapter summaries, bibliography, and Internet search sites.
- Sections on comparative correctional systems that illustrate how other nations deal with offenders under community supervision.
- Descriptions of "real people," professionals and offenders alike, who are the
 most important part of the complex of organizations and agencies responsible for carrying out corrections in the community.

We believe our partnership brings a unique blend to this book. Todd Clear, a distinguished professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, is a leading authority on community corrections and president-elect of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Harry Dammer, professor and chair of the criminal justice program at Niagara University, has written widely on correctional issues and is an accomplished undergraduate classroom instructor. Together, we hope to provide the reader with a blend of topical accuracy, together with readability and interest, so that the text effectively portrays our excitement about the topic and its importance as an aspect of the correctional function.

Organization

The book is divided into three parts. Part I is composed of four chapters that provide background material for the study of the offender in the community. In this part, we cover the history of community corrections and define the main terms and concepts of the field, with a special emphasis on the problem of classification. Part II covers the main community correctional agencies: diversion, probation, parole, and so forth. Our coverage shows that in recent years, these agencies have changed dramatically—there is no longer a clear line of distinction among them or their functions. Part III is devoted to the goals of community-based correctional work. We show the most recent approaches designed to control and reduce offender risk, as well as to improve justice. By organizing the book in this way—starting with background, then describing current agencies, then analyzing the effectiveness of community corrections—we hope to have minimized overlap in our coverage while pro-

viding a comprehensive review of what is known about the field. The chapter titles are as follows:

- 1. The Offender in the Community
- 2. Key Concepts and Ideas in Community-Based Corrections
- 3. Offenders in the Community Through History
- 4. The Classification of Crimes and Criminals
- 5. Offenders Under Diversion
- 6. Probation
- 7. Parole
- 8. Intermediate Sanctions
- 9. Community Corrections
- 10. The Juvenile Offender in the Community
- 11. Managing the Offender in the Community
- 12. Reducing Risk Through Correctional Treatment
- 13. Promoting Justice in the Community
- 14. The Future of the Offender in the Community

We think this book has several advantages to recommend its use:

Coverage

Nowhere is corrections changing more rapidly than in its community-based applications. These changes, brought on by a history of failure and public pressure for more effective community strategies, involve every aspect of community correctional work, from everyday supervision strategies to broad philosophical shifts. Change also crosses agency boundaries, affecting multiple agencies. In Part III, we show how shifts in the goals of community corrections have translated into practical changes in action.

The Real World

This is not just a book about theory. "Real world" concerns are dominant aspects of everyday work in community supervision functions. As we discuss the agencies in Part II, we make certain to bring attention to the problems that workers and managers face in doing their jobs; we also describe how the agency's actions affect the life of the offender, trying to make it.

Evidence

Because so many new ideas in correctional work turn out to fail, we look for hard evidence to support or disconfirm the practices we describe. We find, too often, that evidence fails to support many of the most cherished ideas in the field, and many of the most common practices. We also find that a

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strong basis exists for many of the changes we describe in Part III, under the "goals" of the system.

Values

In the end, the field of corrections in a field in which values matter. What we believe in—the ethics and moral standards we apply to the work of our government—nowhere play a more important role than in correctional policy applied to offenders in the community. Throughout this book, we remind the reader of the values, controversies, and conundrums that must be addressed in developing effective correctional policy.

Supplements

Wadsworth/Thomson Learning offers a number of supporting materials for use by those who adopt this text. Among them are the following:

- Instructor's Resource Manual 053425375X
 Includes chapter outlines, objectives, key terms, suggested readings, discussion questions, and a comprehensive test bank of multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in, and essay questions.
- Thomson World Class Learning Testing Tools
 Macintosh 0534253768, Windows 0534253776
 This fully integrated suite of test creation, delivery, and classroom management tools includes Thomson World Class Test, Test Online, and World Class Management software. Thomson World Class Testing Tools allows professors to deliver tests via print, floppy, hard drive, LAN, or Internet. With these tools, professors can create cross-platform exam files from publisher files or existing WESTest 3.2 test banks, edit questions, create questions, and provide their own feedback to objective test questions—enabling the system to work as a tutorial or an examination. In addition, professors can create tests that include multiple-choice, true/false, or matching questions. Professors can also track the progress of an entire class or an individual student. Testing and tutorial results can be integrated into the class management tool, which offers scoring, gradebook, and reporting capabilities, Call-in testing is also available.
- Criminal Justice Video List. Qualified adopters can select from a variety of videos including exclusive CNN videos for Introduction to Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Juvenile Delinquency, which are tied to chapters of selected texts; an exclusive Introduction to Criminal Justice video from Films for the Humanities; eight dynamic Court TV videos profiling some of the most famous and current cases in the judicial system; and videos from the A&E American Justice Series, ABC News, MPI Home Video, Films for the Humanities, and the National Institute of Justice.
- InfoTrac College Edition: A Wadsworth exclusive. Students receive four

months of real-time access to InfoTrac College Edition's online database of continuously updated, full-length articles from hundreds of journals and periodicals. By doing a simple keyword search, users can quickly generate a powerful list of related articles from thousands of possibilities, then select relevant articles to explore and/or print out for reference or further study. For professors, InfoTrac College Edition articles offer opportunities to ignite discussions or augment their lectures with the latest developments in the discipline. For students, InfoTrac College Edition's virtual library allows Internet access to sources that extend their learning far beyond the pages of a book. Available packaged with the text.

• The Internet Investigator II 0534547265

This colorful tri-fold brochure lists the most popular Internet addresses for criminal justice-related Web sites. Includes URLs for corrections, victimization, crime prevention, high-tech crime, policing, courts, investigations, juvenile justice, research, and fun sites.

• Internet Guide for Criminal Justice 0534527167

Intended for the novice user, the first half of this 80-page booklet explains the background and vocabulary necessary for navigating the Web while the second half is customized for criminal justice-related Web sites as well as Internet project ideas.

 Crime Scenes CD-ROM (bundle) 053421477, (stand alone) 0534214193

An interactive CD-ROM featuring six vignettes that allow students to play various roles as they explore all aspects of the criminal justice system, such as policing/investigation, courts, sentencing, and corrections. Awarded the gold medal in higher education and silver medal for video interface by *New Media Magazine*'s Envision Awards.

Careers in Criminal Justice Interactive CD-ROM

This engaging self-exploration provides an interactive discovery of careers in criminal justice. Students can take an assessment test to learn what career might best suit them based on their personality, research careers from job descriptions, see videos of practicing criminal professionals, and learn about how to get a job from helpful tips on working resumes, cover letters, and more.

The CJ Resource Center http://cj.wadsworth.com This exceptional Criminal Justice resource Web site contains links to over 3,000 popular criminal justice sites, grants/funding, jobs, news, list servs, convention information, instructor resources, and other fun links.

Seeking Employment in Criminal Justice and Related Fields, 3/e 0534521568

This book is designed to help students develop a job search strategy through resumes, cover letters, and interview techniques; it also provides extensive information on various criminal justice professions. (includes Careers in Criminal Justice Interactive CD-ROM)

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Most of all, this book is dedicated to the readers who will use it. We hope they become effective professionals in the community justice business: informed, compassionate, and grounded in a deep commitment to one of the most privileged occupations a person can have—working with offenders in the community.

Todd R. Clear Harry R. Dammer

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