

The Criminal Justice System

An Introduction Third Edition Waldron



THIRD EDITION

The Criminal Justice System

AN INTRODUCTION

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The Criminal Justice System

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PREFACE

There are many valid approaches to writing an introductory textbook on the criminal justice system. One could write from a legal, criminal process, or sociological point of view, among others. In planning our text, we chose to write from the criminal justice *system* perspective.

We view the criminal justice system as a whole composed of many subsystems — the police, the prosecutors, the courts, and corrections, including probation and parole. Our task has been to describe the subsystems of the criminal justice system as we know it to be — not as it should be.

The system approach has proved viable, and both the first and second editions were well received. Since the development of the second 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. Thus, the third edition incorporates the latest developments while retaining the basic organization of the first and second editions.

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 section of the text speculates on what the future will bring for the criminal justice system. We conclude with a discussion of career opportunities in the justice field.

In the third edition we have added a chapter on measuring crime (Chapter 2) which contains the most up-to-date UCR statistics, but which also discusses other sources of crime data. Chapters on corrections and on the history of law enforcement have been notably updated, as has our discussion of investigative technology. The section on the future of the criminal justice system (Part Seven) has been substantially revised.

PEDAGOGY

The Criminal Justice System: An Introduction was prepared for the introductory course in criminal justice. This book is designed to provide students with basic information on the system. The chapters are organized in the sequence in which we suggest they be covered. The first part of the text places the criminal justice system in proper perspective.

LEARNING AIDS

A number of features have been built into the third 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. 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 is intended to stimulate thought. An annotated bibliography at the end of each Part of the text will guide the student toward additional reading.

At the back of the book are four appendices. Appendix A is an extremely handy reference for all students of the justice system: the United States Constitution, printed in full. Appendix B delineates the rights of the individual under the Constitution. Appendix C highlights major criminal law cases in American history; the cases are grouped together according to the area of criminal law by which they are covered and which they helped to change. Appendix D is a glossary of justice-system terms that every student of criminal justice ought to know.

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The opinions expressed in this book are the authors' and are not necessarily those of the agencies they represent.

THE AUTHORS

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