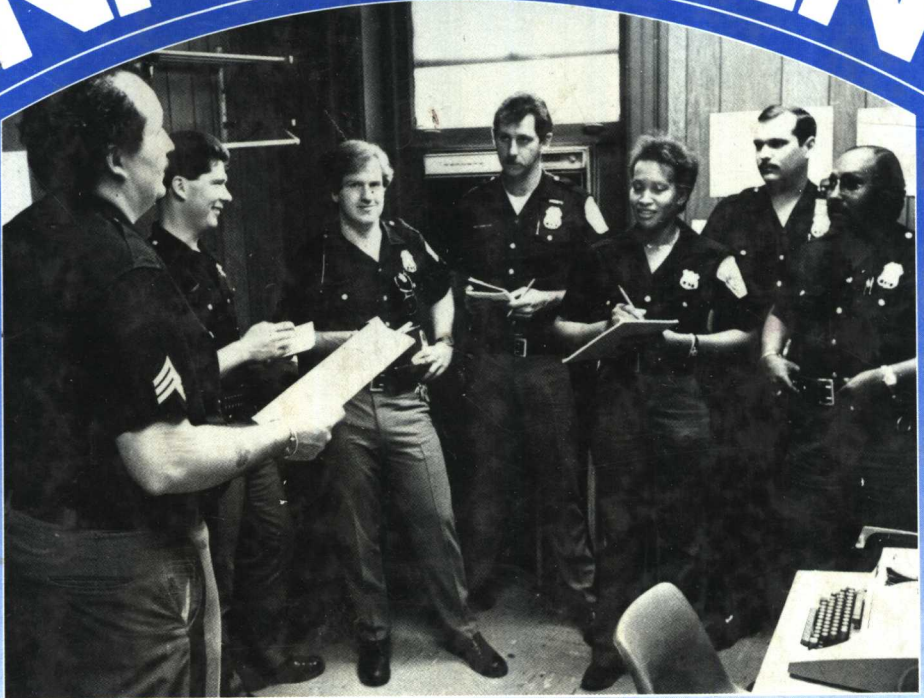


LAW ENFORCEMENT



AN INTRODUCTION

RICHARD N. HOLDEN

LAW ENFORCEMENT

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Preface

Law enforcement is the most visible and most critical component of the criminal justice system. While the courts serve a vital role in the administration of justice, they deal with but a small percentage of the cases handled by the police. Justice, for the majority of the public, is a law enforcement function.

To understand the administration of justice in the United States one must first understand the police. It is the purpose of this text to introduce students to the institution and occupation we call law enforcement.

While different agencies refer to themselves by different terminology, this text will be somewhat broader in the use of such labels. For ease of understanding, both law enforcement and police will be used generically. These terms will encompass all agencies with enforcement responsibilities, from municipal through state and federal levels.

I wish to emphasize that this is an introductory text. It is not intended to address each and every controversy facing law enforcement in the United States. Instead it is written to provide a foundation from which further study can commence. For that reason much of the information presented is descriptive. Moreover, the first segment is intended to provide a somewhat more in-depth historical review than is usually provided in texts of this type. It is my belief that one cannot begin to understand the present without first understanding the past.

The text is not merely a description of American law enforcement with a history attached. It also attempts to look into the future. For this view, this book owes much to Dr. David Carter and Dr. Allen Sapp. The chapter they provided on law enforcement and higher education is based on the most extensive study ever completed on that relationship. Law enforcement is changing in this country; nowhere is that more obvious than in the information provided in this chapter.

Finally, this text is written in the hope that the people who read these pages will acquire an appreciation for the complexity of the law enforcement function. In a dic-

tatorship, it is the police who maintain the power of government, while in a democracy it is the police who guarantee the freedom of the individual. The police of a free people must understand their role and the necessity of legal limitations on their actions. The first step in process of gaining this understanding, is knowledge. This text is written with the hope that the acquisition of such knowledge begins here.

Richard N. Holden

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