

An abstract painting featuring vertical, textured brushstrokes in shades of blue, red, green, and pink. The composition suggests the silhouettes of several figures standing side-by-side. In the top right corner, there is a small red rectangular sticker with the number '5795' and a black rectangular mark below it.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

THEORY, PRACTICE AND LAW

LARRY J. SIEGEL

FIFTH EDITION

JOSEPH J. SENNA



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JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

THEORY, PRACTICE AND LAW

FIFTH EDITION



To my wife Therese J. Libby and my children,
Julie, Andrew, Eric, and Rachel.

L.J.S.

To my wife Janet and my children, Christian,
Stephen, Peter, and Joseph.

J.J.S.

PREFACE

.....

The events of the past few years have heightened interest in the study of juvenile delinquency appreciably. The media has focused on incidents involving youth gangs, violence in schools, and teenage substance abuse. Adolescents seem more violent today than ever before. And while the justice system seems incapable of controlling youth crime, the general public demands that police guarantee community safety and the courts rigorously punish dangerous adolescent offenders.

Because these issues are so critical to the quality of life in the United States, an on-going effort has been made to study and understand the causes of delinquent behavior and to devise strategies to control or eliminate its occurrence.

We enjoy updating this text because, as university professors who have taught this course over the past twenty years, we realize that the study of juvenile delinquency is a dynamic, ever-changing field of scientific inquiry. The theories, concepts and processes of this area of study are constantly evolving. We have therefore updated *Juvenile Delinquency, Theory, Practice and Law* to reflect the changes that have taken place in the study of delinquent behavior during the past few years. The fifth edition includes a review of recent legal cases, research studies and policy initiatives. It provides a groundwork for the study of juvenile delinquency by analyzing and describing the nature and extent of delinquency, the suspected causes of delinquent behavior, and the environmental influences on youthful misbehavior. This edition also identifies the agencies of juvenile justice and the procedures used to treat juvenile offenders. It covers what most experts believe are the critical issues in juvenile delinquency and analyzes crucial policy issues including the death penalty for juveniles, shock incarceration, and the courtroom testimony of children in sexual abuse cases.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Our primary goals in writing this fifth edition remain as they have been for previous editions:

1. To be as objective as possible, presenting the many diverse views and perspectives that characterize the study of juvenile delinquency and reflect its interdisciplinary nature.
2. To contain a balance of theory, law, policy, and practice. It is essential that a text on delinquency not solely be a theory book without presenting the juvenile justice system or contain sections on current policies without examining legal issues and cases.
3. To be as thorough and up-to-date as possible. We have attempted to include the most current data and information available.
4. To make the study of delinquency interesting as well as informative. We want to make readers as interested as possible in the study of delinquency so that they will pursue it on an undergraduate or graduate level.

We have tried to provide a text which is both scholarly and informative, comprehensive yet interesting, well organized and objective yet provocative and thought provoking.

ORGANIZATION OF THE TEXT

The fifth edition is divided into six main sections.

Part I examines the concept of delinquency and status offending, the measurement of delinquency, and trends and patterns in the delinquency rate. Chapter 1 now contains material on the current crisis faced by adolescents as well as material on delinquency in foreign countries. Chapter 2 covers recent trends in teen violence and includes material on hate crimes. Chapter 3 has been significantly revamped and retitled. Its content reflects the life-course view of delinquency and contains sections on problem behavior syndrome and the turning points of crime.

Part II describes the various theoretical models which have been used to explain the onset of delinquent behavior. Chapter 4 covers recent findings on choice, biological and psychological theories. Chapter 5 looks at environmental influences and has new sections on strain theory. Chapter 6 focuses on socialization and contains analysis of the general theory of crime. Chapter 7 on social reaction theories has been updated to reflect recent research on labeling and conflict theory. Chapter 8 has been revised to reflect recent writing on the relationship between gender and delinquency. Included is a section on the sexualization of female delinquency.

Part III covers the environmental influences on delinquency. All the chapters in part III have been updated because there have been so many changes in the area of family (chapter 9), gangs (chapter 10), schools (chapter 11), and drugs (chapter 12). Chapter 13 reviews the history of childhood and the emergence of state control over children in need. Emphasis has been placed on reporting the latest changes in child abuse data, the relationship between abuse and delinquency, court testimony of child abuse victims, emerging patterns of school achievement, crime in schools, and trends in teenage drug abuse.

Part IV on juvenile justice advocacy contains material on both the history of juvenile justice and the philosophy and practice of today's juvenile justice system. Chapter 14 gives extensive coverage to the role of the federal government in the juvenile justice system, a review of theoretical models of juvenile justice, extensive coverage of the legal rights of children including a new time line of Constitutional cases.

Part V on controlling juvenile offenders contains three chapters on the police and court process. Chapter 15 on police has been updated with the major court decisions on school searches and *Miranda* rights of juveniles. It also contains new material on race and gender effects on police discretion. Chapter 16 on early court process, has new information on plea bargaining in juvenile court, the use of detention and transfer to adult jails. It now contains an analysis of the critical factors which influence the waiver decision. Chapter 17 on the juvenile trial and sentencing has been extensively revised, and contains new sections on special problems faced by juvenile court judges such as substance abuse cases and gangs. It reviews the role of the public defender and federal prosecutor in juvenile court.

Part VI contains two chapters on the juvenile correctional system. Chapter 18 on community based treatments has been updated with material on probation innovations including the increased use of restitution. A new survey on public attitudes toward community corrections is discussed. How does the public view probation for violent juvenile offenders? Chapter 19 on closed institutions reflects the continued expansion of the juvenile correctional population including the disturbing increase in the number of minorities in that population.

Once again the book closes with a brief overview of significant findings found within the text.

LEARNING TOOLS

The text contains the following features designed to help students learn and comprehend the material:

1. Each chapter begins with an outline.
2. The book contains more than 200 photos, tables and charts.
3. **Case In Point** Every chapter contains boxed inserts on intriguing issues concerning juvenile delinquency policy or processes. Within the boxed inserts are critical thinking sections which help students conceptualize problems of concern to juvenile delinquency.
4. **Focus on Delinquency** As in previous editions, these boxed inserts focus attention on topics of special importance and concern. They also include major Supreme Court cases that influence and control the juvenile justice system—for example, *In Re Gault*, which defines the concept of due process for youthful offenders.
5. **Key Terms** At the end of each chapter is a list of key terms used throughout the chapter. Every effort has been made to include the key terms within the glossary which concludes the book.
6. **Discussion Questions** Each chapter ends with thought provoking discussion questions.
7. A glossary is included which sets out and defines key terms used in the text.

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And, of course, our colleagues at West Publishing did their usual outstanding job of aiding us in the preparation of the text. Mary Schiller, our senior executive editor, whom we consider a non-attributed co-author, did her usually superb job of guiding us through another edition. Debra Meyer, our production editor on the project, was thoroughly professional and creative and helped make this a very attractive text. We extend special thanks to Barbara Fuller for completing the production work.

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