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CRIMINAL LAW

FRED E. INBAU: PROFESSORIAL FIGHTER OF CRIME

JAMES A. RAHL*

Fred Inbau is the most prominent figure in the law school world today who has aligned himself on the side of effective enforcement of the laws against crime. He is a formidable foe of crime because he has devoted his research, teaching, scholarship and great energy wholeheartedly to this task.

At Northwestern, he is the senior professor in an extensive program of criminal law research and teaching. The program enlists the time of several faculty members of varying interests and persuasion, commands a prominent portion of the total curriculum and offers an array of formal and extra-curricular courses and studies for general law students, graduate students and members of the practicing profession. From the time immediately after World War II when he joined the full-time faculty, this program has grown from one or two courses into what it is now largely as a result of his influence.

Fred Inbau has been the team leader and co-author in the publication of widely-used casebooks on both criminal law and criminal procedure. He has co-authored over a dozen other leading books on such subjects as crime detection and investigation, scientific evidence and the polygraph, as well as a textbook on medical jurisprudence and books on criminal law and evidence for the police and for laymen.

Meanwhile, he has faithfully taught a full load of courses in the areas of criminal law and evidence. He has at various times managed and served as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* until it came under the supervision—at his urging—of student editorial boards, and he is present editor of the *Journal of Police Science*. He conceived and for many years has directed at the Law School his famous Short Courses for Prosecuting Attorneys and for De-

fense Attorneys in Criminal Cases. And in the recent past, he led, with Ford Foundation grants, highly successful programs of graduate study in criminal law and in the training of police legal advisers. He founded and is a guiding light in a national organization to improve efforts to combat crime, Americans for Effective Law Enforcement.

The mere recital of the partial list of the works of this remarkable scholar-teacher-activist in criminal law, criminology, evidence and police science is somewhat staggering. It is inevitable that he would be frequently cited by the courts, quoted by the national and local media and consulted by the police and many others here and abroad. He is widely admired for his strong, frank, open stand for law enforcement. And of course he is occasionally criticized too for his opposition to decisions and to approaches which he considers to be too lenient in the face of the large problems posed by criminal activity today.

How does it happen that such a prolific writer and devoted teacher should be so different in some respects from so many others on the academic side of the field? The explanation is probably simple enough. Fred Inbau has undoubtedly had more direct experience with crime, criminals and the problems of the police than most of us, and he sees the legal, social and intellectual questions from the point of view of those who must confront crime directly every day.

In 1933, Fred Inbau completed work for a degree of Master of Laws at Northwestern and then became Research Assistant for the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory which was founded in association with the Law School in 1929, with Dean Wigmore's active cooperation. The Laboratory was an outgrowth of the reaction in Chicago to the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, which highlighted the alarming dimension of the problem of organized crime in our

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