

Summer 1997

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Recommended Citation

Recent Books, 87 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 1511 (1996-1997)

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RECENT BOOKS

CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY: A SURVEY OF RECENT BOOKS

JULIET CASPER SMITH*

AFRO-AMERICAN WOMEN—ABUSE OF—NEW YORK (STATE)— NEW YORK—CASE STUDIES

BETH E. RICHIE, *COMPELLED TO CRIME: THE GENDER ENTRAPMENT OF
BATTERED BLACK WOMEN* (New York: Routledge, 1996) 186 pp.

Based upon interviews with thirty-seven African American women imprisoned at the Rose M. Singer Center on Rikers Island, this work sets forth the theory of gender entrapment as an explanation for the illegal behavior of abused women. The author believes gender, race, ethnicity, and violence intersect in such a way that women are trapped by violence and that criminal activity is often a response to the threat of violence or coercion by male partners.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

MICHAEL DAVIS, *JUSTICE IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH: RETHINKING CAPITAL AND LESSER PUNISHMENTS* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1996) 293 pp.

An abolitionist, this author first critiques the arguments commonly set forth by death penalty supporters, and then explores various theories of punishment and alternatives to capital punishment. Davis finds that the notion that the punishment for crimes adheres to a scale of increasingly

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harsher penalties forces the criminal justice system towards the death penalty. Therefore, arguments against the death penalty need to address this system of justice.

ROGER G. HOOD, *THE DEATH PENALTY: A WORLD-WIDE PERSPECTIVE* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996) 307 pp.

The first edition of this book was published six years ago. Since that time there has been an increase in the number of countries abolishing the death penalty. In this second edition of the book, Hood examines United Nations surveys and reports of various international bodies since 1989. Changes in attitude seem to account for the abolition of the death penalty in some countries. He also finds that cultural and religious values play a role in the existence of the death penalty and that the abolition of the death penalty is not always permanent.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS

CLIVE COLEMAN, *UNDERSTANDING CRIME DATA: HAUNTED BY THE DARK FIGURE* (Philadelphia, PA : Open University Press, 1996) 180 pp.

Focusing upon the "slippery subject of the sources, status, and use of criminological data," Coleman finds that the unreported, unrecorded crimes and offenders are the dark figure obscuring the implications and reliability of that criminological data. Qualitative data, gathered from small scale studies, should not be viewed as second-best or suspect. And quantitative data, gathered by official sources and survey methods, can be manipulated by political forces. Coleman uses British reporting sources as his examples, but his conclusions are applicable to the United States.

CRIMINOLOGY

READINGS IN CONTEMPORARY CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORY (Peter Cordella & Larry Siegel, eds.) (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1996) 409 pp.

The readings in this work are grouped together according to the type of theory espoused: rational choice theories; biosocial and psychological theories; sociological theories; integrated theories; and conflict theories. Some of the topics

addressed include situational crime, shame and reintegration, arousal theory, the ecology of crimes, interactional theory of delinquency, and feminist perspectives upon crime.

DEATH ROW INMATES—UNITED STATES—CASE STUDIES

LOU JONES, *FINAL EXPOSURE: PORTRAITS FROM DEATH ROW* (Boston : Northeastern University Press, 1996) 122 pp.

Lou Jones, famed photographer, has penetrated the inner sanctum of death row and captured the eyes of various condemned prisoners. He believes that his photos illustrate the humanity of the prisoners society prefers to view as inhuman monsters. His goal is "not to argue for the release from prison of condemned criminals. . . . Rather it is to suggest that even they should be understood as part of the human community." Along with the photographs, Jones provides information about the prisoner's childhood, life history, and criminal record, including citations to court cases.

**DISCRIMINATION IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION—
UNITED STATES**

JUSTICE WITH PREJUDICE: RACE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN AMERICA (Michael J. Lynch & E. Britt Patterson, eds.) 195 pp.

Acting as a supplement to an earlier work entitled *Race and Criminal Justice* (1991), this book examines the racial bias present in the criminal justice system. The essays explore such topics as moral panic as ideology, the image of black women in criminology, race and popular culture, the nature of juvenile court proceedings, and the employment of minorities by the criminal justice system.

FORENSIC GENETICS

THE EVALUATION OF FORENSIC DNA EVIDENCE (National Research Council, Committee on DNA Forensic Science) (Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, 1996) 254 pp.

Viewing developments in forensic science since 1992, when the National Research Council first issued a report dealing with DNA evidence, this report specifically addresses the

question of errors in forensic laboratories, the chain of custody procedures, and the statistical interpretation of the evidence by the courts. The report offers numerous recommendations to insure the accuracy of the data collected. The ceiling principle, which caused controversy in the 1992 report, is found to be unnecessary in 1996.

GANGS—NEW YORK (STATE)—NEW YORK

KO-LIN CHIN, *CHINATOWN GANGS: EXTORTION, ENTERPRISE, AND ETHNICITY* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996) 233 pp.

Providing a chilling portrait of the underworld of New York City's Chinatown, Chin offers valuable insight into gang formation, gang enterprises, and gang violence. His book draws upon surveys gang members, local law enforcement officers, leaders of community associations, and Chinese business owners. He traces the history of Chinese gangs and their affiliations and territories. Chinese gangs are integrally connected to the social, cultural, political, and economic environment of Chinatowns across the country. In conclusion, Chin proposes changes to law enforcement policies to decrease gang violence in Chinatown.

POLICE MISCONDUCT—UNITED STATES

POLICE VIOLENCE: UNDERSTANDING AND CONTROLLING POLICE ABUSE OF FORCE (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1996) 379 pp.

The fifteen essays in this work seek to illuminate what is currently known about police violence and what still needs to be studied and researched. Practical and theoretical perspectives are offered regarding the impact of such force upon the citizens and the criminal justice system itself. The causes of police brutality, the prevalence of police use of force, characteristics of the violence-prone officer, law enforcement culture, and the administrative review of instances of police abuse are some of the topics addressed by the essays.

RECIDIVISM—UNITED STATES—PREVENTION

THREE STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT: VENGEANCE AS PUBLIC POLICY (David Shichor & Dale K. Sechrest, eds.) 290 pp.

California was the first state to pass legislation regulating recidivism, commonly known as the "three strikes and you're out" law. Thirty-six other states now have similar laws which seek to insure that the habitual offender stays behind bars. This book, evolving from a 1994 conference held by the California Association for Criminal Justice Research, contains chapters that examine constitutional issues, implementation problems, and crime control effects of the recidivist statutes.

STEUER, MAX, 1871-1940

ARON STEUER, MAX D. STEUER: TRIAL LAWYER (Buffalo, N.Y.: W.S. Hein & Co., 1996) 301 pp.

The legal career of famed attorney Max Steuer is the subject of this work, written by Steuer's son Aron. Biographical information is presented in the first chapter, with the chapters that follow focusing on particular cases handled by Max Steuer. Excerpts from case transcripts and trial testimony as recorded by the court reporters are included for these cases: *People v. Gardner*; *People v. Harris & Blanck*; *People v. Rickard*; *Oppenheim v. Metropolitan Street Railways*; and *Sherman v. International Publications*.

TRIALS (MURDER)—CALIFORNIA—LOS ANGELES

DONALD FREED, KILLING TIME: THE FIRST FULL INVESTIGATION INTO THE UNSOLVED MURDERS OF NICOLE BROWN SIMPSON AND RONALD GOLDMAN (New York: Macmillan, 1996) 307 pp.

The facts and evidence surrounding the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman are presented in such a way as to engage the reader as a juror for the case. The authors describe the book as a sort of virtual reality experiment in which the reader-juror organizes the various facts and evidence into a timeline for the period in which the murders occurred. Establishing this timeline involves the acceptance and rejection of various scenarios. At the conclusion of the book, the reader makes his or her own judg-

ment of what happened June 12, 1994.

VICTIMS OF CRIMES—UNITED STATES

SUSAN KISS SARNOFF, *PAYING FOR CRIME: THE POLICIES AND POSSIBILITIES OF CRIME VICTIM REIMBURSEMENT* (Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 1996) 115 pp.

How are victims of crimes compensated? How should they be compensated? These questions and related ones are addressed by Sarnoff, the founder and former director of the Adelphi Resource Center for Crime Victim Advocates at Adelphi University. Sarnoff describes the various state victim compensation programs, private insurance benefits, and federal welfare programs that currently exist to aid the victims of crimes. She also lists the types of expenses commonly incurred by victims. The agencies providing victim benefits need to contain their costs, while increasing the pool of resources and number of victims served. Often the neediest victims are unaware of their rights and the benefits available.