# **Negotiating Crime**

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Plea Bargaining, Problem Solving, and Dispute Resolution in the Criminal Context

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## **Preface**

This book is about how we resolve criminal cases in processes other than trials. Until now there has not been a single book that brings together reading about the concerns, critiques, proposals for reform, as well as focusing on the skills needed for the variety of processes beyond trial through which criminal cases are resolved.

To our readers who are law professors and law students, we understand that this book may look and feel different from a standard law school casebook. We do not focus on cases but instead have brought together reading from criminal law scholars, dispute resolution scholars, social scientists, and the media. Our focus is not on doctrine, in large part because there is very little doctrine in this area. Instead we focus on giving the reader a basic introduction, with a large dose of critical readings, to how criminal cases are actually resolved in the United States.

This book covers four topics: Plea bargaining, restorative justice, therapeutic justice, and juvenile justice. In covering each of these four topics we will first discuss what is happening on a practical level (for example, what are the stages of a plea negotiation? Who has more power in the plea negotiation process? How can you build your negotiation skills?) We will also discuss the evolution of these policies (for example, how did drug courts develop? How are these different than restorative justice processes?) Embedded into these discussions will be the policy reasons for these processes. Finally, for each topic, we will discuss concerns and recommendations for reform.

Each of the four topics that we are covering in this book is a rich area for scholarship and writings, although the four topics have not yet been brought together in one book. In fact, this likely means that some material is very familiar for our readers and some is not. For those of us steeped in criminal law and process, readings on negotiation skills and perhaps some of the alternative processes of problem solving courts or restorative justice will be relatively novel. For those of us coming from the dispute resolution field, we expect that the early chapters on plea bargaining might be particularly necessary to remind us of the current state of criminal practice or that much of the materials from criminal procedure cases to state regulations to ethical guidelines is completely unfamiliar. And for those of us from a clinical perspective, there will yet again be certain readings or theories that seem familiar while others are quite foreign. Although this may at times be frustrating, we also hope that this cross-disciplinary approach reflects the richness of this area of the law ... as well as the need to bring all of these streams together in order to capture a fuller picture of what 21st Century lawyers need to know.

xviii PREFACE

Each chapter in this book includes original text and excerpts from published material. Each chapter also includes discussion points, and questions to give additional information and to focus classroom discussion. Due to the wonderful wealth of material it is impossible for us to include everything in each chapter. Instead, we have pulled together some reading that helps to start the conversation in each topic and hope that classroom time will give rise to even more discussion. We have also included a list, at the end of each chapter, of additional resources. These lists include books, scholarly articles, and other materials that further illuminate the topics covered in each chapter.

Given the cross-disciplinary nature of the book, this book can easily be used in a variety of ways. This book could be used as the text in a standard 3-credit course or seminar or as the text for clinical classes in prosecution or defense. Parts of this book could be pulled out for stand-alone classes, such as a course on plea bargaining. Parts of this book could supplement reading in more standard doctrinal classes such as in criminal procedure. This book is intended to give students a basic introduction in these areas, to challenge our thinking about these topics, and to be a jumping off point for skill building, simulations and other exercises.

Finally, we want to note that this book is premised on the fact that criminal practice is constantly evolving. It is because of that evolution, and the likely continuation of change, that we think it is so important for new lawyers to understand all of the different processes that occur under the rubric of the criminal legal system. For example, mass incarceration was not always a defining feature of the US criminal legal system. Drug courts are also fairly new. We want to equip our readers with a critical understanding of how we resolve criminal cases now so that they can be part of the continuing process of change and contribute to improving our criminal legal system. We hope that this book will support more thoughtful and meaningful approaches to criminal justice reform.

## Acknowledgments

This book has a been a wonderful collaboration and we are grateful to many supporters for all of their help along the way. When we first hatched this idea, we decided to spend a week together at Marquette to block out what we thought the book should look like and to write a book proposal. This one-week visit became a regular staple of the last six summers and we are thankful to both Texas A&M School of Law and Marquette Law School for supporting this time together as well as Susan Campbell and Tom Content for hosting Cynthia every summer in their subterranean suite!

As we started to write, we knew that this book would build on both shared expertise in dispute resolution and separate expertise in criminal law, criminal procedure and restorative justice. Our colleagues in all of these linked fields have been so helpful in reviewing everything from the book proposal to the table of contents to reading particular chapters. Much appreciation to Cara Drinan, Michael O'Hear, Peter Reilly, Jenny Roberts, and Ron Wright. Thank you also to Richard Birke, Amy Cohen, Aliza Cover, Eve Hanan, Art Hinshaw, Carrie Menkel-Meadow, and Melanie Reid. We are particularly grateful to Jen Reynolds who took our page proofs and taught with this book during her visit at Harvard Law School to really give this a test run. Thank you as well to Amber Baylor who introduced plea bargaining to her students in the Texas A&M Criminal Defense Clinic also using page proofs. And we thank all of the students in our respective classes at Texas A&M and Marquette who commented on the materials as they were being developed.

Andrea's assistant, Carrie Kratochvil, has both managed our visits and, more importantly, managed the permission process to permit us the wonderful excerpts in the book. We have both said there would be no book without her! Thanks to Andrea's research assistants Dom Rosso and Will Ruffing for their work on the book with an additional shout out to Will for his help throughout the past year on permissions. (Have we mentioned how hard that process is?)

We have also presented this outline, the proposal, and various pieces of the book at the AALS Dispute Resolution Works-in-Progress conference and to the Park City Writer's Workshop. We are grateful to all of the participant's feedback along the way.

We look forward to adding more thanks to each of you as you use these innovative materials and let us know how to continue to improve the book!