

Minnesota's Criminal Justice System

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*This book is dedicated to our students—past, present, and future—
and their efforts to improve the criminal justice system we write about.*

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Chapter Ten · The Times They Are A-Changin': The Future of Crime and Criminal Justice in Minnesota

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Series Note

Carolina Academic Press' state-specific criminal justice series fills a gap in the field of criminal justice education. One drawback with many current introduction to criminal justice texts is that they pertain to the essentially non-existent "American" criminal justice system and ignore the local landscape. Each state has its unique legislature, executive branch, law enforcement system, court and appellate review system, state supreme court, correctional system, and juvenile justice apparatus. Since many criminal justice students embark upon careers in their home states, they are better served by being exposed to their own states' criminal justice systems. Texts in this series are designed to be used as primary texts or as supplements to more general introductory criminal justice texts.

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Introduction

Welcome to Minnesota. Clear blue water. Star of the North. Gopher State. Flyover country. The land of 10,000 lakes (technically 11,842, but who's counting) and 5 million people, 60 percent of whom live in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Some of the largest Hmong, Karen, Somali, and Native American minority populations in the country call Minnesota home. So, too, do 50 different species of mosquitoes, which is not so good. The state is the source of the mighty Mississippi River and site of some of the coldest places in the contiguous United States. It is also home to some of the oldest rocks found on earth and some of the most famous rock stars, including Bob Dylan, Eddie Cochran, and the man who made Minnesota purple with pride, the late Prince Rogers Nelson. Legend has it, the Rolling Stones' hit, "You Can't Always Get What You Want," was inspired by a passing remark to Mick Jagger in an Excelsior drugstore.

Other Minnesota VIPs include one of the greatest writers of all time, F. Scott Fitzgerald, author of *The Great Gatsby*, and one of world's best cartoonists, Charles Schultz, creator of the comic strip *Peanuts*. Minnesotans have elected a former Saturday Night Live writer to the U.S. Senate, and a former pro-wrestler to the state Governor's Residence. Minnesotans can also claim one former vice president of the United States and one former chief justice. Additionally, a Minnesotan is the associate justice of the Supreme Court responsible for writing the landmark *Roe v. Wade* opinion.

Minnesota is home to the largest Sherlock Homes archive in the world, which is housed on the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota. Aviator Charles Lindbergh grew up in Minnesota. *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*, Judy Garland ("There's no place like home!"), and the Academy Award-winning sibling filmmakers, the Coen Brothers, also claim Minnesota origins. The state further celebrates Greg LeMond, America's only *official* Tour de France winner (sorry, Lance)!

Food features prominently in Minnesota life. Both General Mills, one of the largest food makers in the world, and Hormel Foods, maker of the iconic Spam, are headquartered in the state. And every year, during one of the nation's largest state fairs, over 1,000,000 people "Get-Together" to consume any

and all food on a stick. Shopping is big too. Minnesota birthed the nation's first indoor shopping mall, Southdale Center in Edina, and still hosts its largest, the modestly named "Mall of America" in Bloomington.

Eighteen Fortune 500 companies (more per capita than any other state) and the largest privately owned company in the United States also comprise the Minnesota landscape. Inline skating became a popular activity because two Minnesotans created Rollerblade Inc. Several Minnesota cities have appeared in *Money Magazine's* Top 10 list of "Best Places to Live" in the United States, and one has even garnered the top spot. Other Minnesota cities have earned number one rankings in the country for being the most literate, most bike friendly, even the healthiest. One city, Lake City, is the birthplace of water skiing and 45 minutes south (Minnesotans define distance by how far it takes to drive) is Rochester, home of one of the world's best hospitals, the Mayo Clinic.

As you can tell, we're proud of this state. And while a list of all of Minnesota's cultural, historical, and social fun facts could go on and on, this state is also known for its criminal justice system and rich crime history—the subjects of this book. *Minnesota's Criminal Justice System* is part of Carolina Academic Press's State-Specific Criminal Justice Series and is designed to be a primary text or supplement to a general introduction to criminal justice textbook. Why do we need another intro textbook, you may ask? The answer is that every state *does* criminal justice differently. Our Constitution grants us this authority. Likewise, every state *teaches* criminal justice differently. There are no initial-entry police academies in Minnesota independent of higher education, for instance; instead, colleges and universities administer our professional peace officer education programs. This is but one example of why a book examining the local criminal justice landscape for the benefit of students embarking upon careers in their home state is so important. Further, current practitioners and residents alike should know how this state administers justice to ensure it is being served. In the end, all Minnesotans should find something of interest in this book.

Preview of *Minnesota's Criminal Justice System*

This book is organized over ten chapters. Some chapter titles are a bit satirical, even peculiar, but they link aspects of the criminal justice system to all things Minnesotan.

Chapter One, "Not-So-Minnesota-Nice," offers an overview of crime and crime trends in Minnesota, including key definitions, exploration of some of the state's most famous crimes and criminals, and celebration of some of the

best known criminal justice policies, practices, and innovations with Minnesota roots. Chapter Two, “What the Movie *Fargo* Didn’t Teach You,” outlines how policing is structured in Minnesota at the state and local levels, with special attention paid to Minnesota’s one-of-a-kind education and training standards for entry into the law enforcement field. Chapter Three, “Warren Burger Was Born Here,” describes how Minnesota’s court system is organized and how cases progress through the system, with additional focus on crime victims. Chapter Four, “The Land of 10,000 Lakes and 10,000 Prisoners,” discusses the administration of corrections in Minnesota, both in confinement and the community. Attention then shifts to Chapter Five, “Involuntarily Committed,” and those Minnesotans in need of acute inpatient psychiatric services or committed by the court as sexual psychopathic personalities, sexually dangerous persons, or mentally ill and dangerous. Chapter Six, “Meet Me at the Mall of America,” explores juvenile delinquency and the juvenile justice apparatus in Minnesota. Chapter Seven, “The Shame of the Cities,” discusses Minnesota’s gangs and gangsters, outlining why the Twin Cities will be forever linked to some of the most notorious criminals (and infamous policies) in history. Minnesota does not police crime and administer justice in isolation, thus Chapter Eight, “The State and District of Minnesota,” outlines the role of the federal system in Minnesota. Chapter Nine, “The Death of the Death Penalty,” examines the controversial story of capital punishment in Minnesota, which was once a sentencing option and still deserves special attention in this state. The tenth and final chapter, “The Times They Are A-Changin’,” evokes the Bob Dylan classic to explain emerging crime and justice concerns in Minnesota, with implications and predictions for the future.

