corrections today

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This book is dedicated to my children Eric, Andrew, Julie and Rachel; my grandchildren Jack, Kayla, and Brooke; my sons-in-law, Jason Macy and Patrick Stephens; and my wife, partner, and best friend, Therese J. Libby.

–LJS

To my wife, Linda, and my children, Kristin, Mya, and Kristen, and my grandchildren, Jake, Jordan, Rayne, Starley, Khosi, and Irie Sky.

–CB
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Preface

Norma Patricia Esparza was a Southern California college student in 1995 when she was raped by a man she met at a bar. A few weeks later, she went back to the same spot and pointed her attacker out to Gianni Van, her ex-boyfriend. He and two others followed the alleged attacker, a man named Gonzalo Ramirez, out of the bar, kidnapped him, and hacked him to death with a meat cleaver.

The killing went unsolved for 17 years, and during this time Norma Esparza earned a doctorate and began working as a psychology professor in Switzerland while serving as a consultant to the World Health Organization. She also married and started a family.

Police cracked the case in 2012 and arrested Esparza and the others. At first she insisted she was innocent but later accepted a plea deal. In 2016, 21 years after the killing, Esparza was sentenced to 6 years in prison. Another co-defendant, Shannon Gries, got a term of 25 years to life, and told the court he would spend the time trying to make amends to Ramirez’s family. Van, who took matters into his own hands, was sentenced to life without parole.

Esparza’s arrest prompted an outcry from sexual assault victims’ advocates, who said the case sent a chilling message to rape survivors.

The Esparza case illustrates why corrections is such a salient and important topic in contemporary criminal justice. Although Esparza did point out her attacker and probably assumed that something bad would happen to him, could she foresee that he would be hacked to death? And what is the purpose of putting someone in prison who committed a crime more than 20 years ago and then turned her life around? Should Esparza spend years in prison or could she be successfully rehabilitated in the community? What is the proper course to take? These are some of the dilemmas facing the contemporary correctional system.


Goals and Objectives

Despite sharing the same sense of frustration many Americans feel over how people are treated in the correctional system, we believe in this “new corrections” so much so that we wanted to create a textbook specifically designed to help train “new corrections professionals.” For more than 50 years between us, we have had the opportunity to channel our interests in punishment and corrections into careers as professors of criminal justice, teaching, working within the corrections system, and consulting with correctional personnel. We have incorporated this lifetime of knowledge and service into Corrections Today, which describes, probes, and analyzes the new ideology, priorities, and programs found in corrections. The text is designed to be informative and scholarly, while at the same time being practical and career oriented. We examine the field of corrections through the lens of students who are giving serious thought to careers in corrections or are now working in corrections. Our text aims to be highly readable, engaging, and authoritative, without losing sight of its goal and target audience. So although the topics covered include historical and theoretical perspectives in corrections, we strive to provide the type of context and concrete illustration that makes such material meaningful and relevant to career-minded students.
Corrections Today has at its core a number of unique attributes:

- **It is realistic.** We conducted a “reality check” by conducting interviews with “spokespeople” for corrections: probationers, inmates, parolees, correctional personnel, and correctional administrators. We constantly asked them: Is this the way it is? Is this a fair assessment? Do we have it right?
- **It is research oriented.** We include the most recent studies of corrections and have tried to explain findings in a user-friendly way aimed at increasing student interest—resulting in a book that is briefer but no less academically sound than more encyclopedic texts.
- **It emphasizes evidence-based research findings.** In nearly every chapter, we include studies of evidence-based research findings. For example, in Chapter 8 we explore the existing evidence on wrongful convictions to help students understand how often miscarriages of justice actually occur and how many people are wrongfully convicted each year.
- **It also emphasizes the expanding role of technology in the field.** Unique “Technocorrections” boxes spotlight the use of cutting-edge technology to supervise offenders in the community and in correctional institutions—providing an essential and compelling look at a major emphasis in corrections today.
- **It does not pull punches.** In nearly every chapter, there is an evaluation of what is taking place in the correctional system today, where the problems lie, and what can be done to correct them.
- **It focuses on how to become a corrections professional.** Our goal is to help students with career choices and explore what careers are out there in the correctional system. We feature numerous interviews with practicing professionals as well as an in-depth look at careers in corrections.
- **It is hopeful.** Time after time in this text, those who work in the field remind students that corrections has been a very positive and fulfilling career in which they feel they have made a difference, and they invite students to join them on this exciting journey.

**Organization of the Text**

The text has 13 chapters divided into 4 parts. Part I covers how and why we correct people who violate the law. Part II reviews the types of correctional institutions now in use, ranging from community-based diversion programs to maximum-security prisons. Part III looks at what both male and female inmates experience during their correctional stay. Part IV reviews unique problems and issues in corrections, ranging from dealing with elderly inmates to death row inmates. The following content of each chapter is set out in some detail.

**Chapter 1, The Correctional System,** covers the goals and philosophy of punishment as well as the history of punishment from the Code of Hammurabi through the Enlightenment through the origins of American corrections up to the 20th century, and concludes with a discussion of the corrections system today, including the extent and consequences of prison overcrowding, the cost of corrections, and what it means to be a professional in corrections.

**Chapter 2, Sentencing and the Correctional Process,** focuses on how we punish—discussing the basic goals and philosophy of sentencing, the various types of sentencing and sentencing guidelines, three-strikes laws, and truth in sentencing.

**Chapter 3, Community Corrections: Diversion and Probation,** begins by explaining diversion and diversionary programs, considers community corrections legislation, and then focuses on probation services.
Chapter 4, Intermediate Sanctions, identifies and discusses the continuum of intermediate sanctions, including fines, forfeiture, house arrest, and electronic monitoring, and places a major emphasis on restorative justice.

Chapter 5, Jails and Houses of Correction, offers comprehensive coverage of the jail from its origins through the various generations of jail supervision, as well as issues concerning jail confinement, such as overcrowding, violence, and suicide.

Chapter 6, Prisons, covers the main types of federal, state, and private prisons, including an examination of the levels of security from minimum to supermax, architectural design innovations, and prison administration.

Chapter 7, The Prison Experience: Male and Female, focuses on the changing social structure of men’s and women’s prisons, including gangs, racial tensions, contraband, violence, and sex in prison. It also identifies the differences between men’s and women’s prisons when it comes to social structure, focuses on issues such as motherhood, health concerns, and sexual abuse, and discusses professionalism among workers in women’s prisons.

Chapter 8, Prisoners’ Rights, identifies what First, Fourth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments substantive rights have been awarded to inmates and addresses the consequences of the Prison Litigation Reform Act on prisoners’ rights.

Chapter 9, Correctional Programs and Services, looks at the role of treatment and services in prisons today, discussing the classification for treatment, individual-level treatment programs, group programs, and inmate self-help programs.

Chapter 10, Parole and Release to the Community, examines parole practices today, how the parole board functions, the various roles of parole officers, the legal rights of parolees, and the problems ex-offenders face when returning to the community.

Chapter 11, Special Prison Populations, reviews three categories of inmates who pose particular challenges to correctional administrators and who face challenges themselves in adjusting to prison environments: special offense inmates—inmates with substance abuse histories, sex offenders, and terrorists; special needs inmates—HIV inmates and inmates with chronic mental health issues; and special population inmates—elderly inmates and inmates who are illegal immigrants.

Chapter 12, Capital Punishment and the Death Row Inmate, examines the status of the death penalty today, its legality and role in contemporary society both nationally and internationally, and describes the positions and responsibilities of those working on death row.

Chapter 13, The Juvenile Offender, looks at juvenile offenders as they are processed through the juvenile justice system and then considers the transfer of juveniles to adult court and the placement of juveniles in boot camps and adult prisons.

What Is New in the Fourth Edition?

We have added two new boxed features. One feature, titled The Corrections Professional, provides an in-depth look at the daily activities, issues, problems, and
achievements of people who are working in corrections. We include interviews with
director of corrections, warden, treatment providers, correctional officers, and others
who share their experiences. The second feature, Careers in Corrections, includes
comprehensive looks at specific correctional roles such as probation officer and
provides information on salary, educational requirements, future prospects, and the like.

Web Apps are placed throughout each section of the text to provide students with
links to relevant websites, with discussion questions and activities, all tied to the chap-
ter learning objectives.

Marginal For Group Discussion activities facilitate critical thinking and group
discussion. All are keyed to the chapter’s learning objectives.

Marginal Critical Thinking activities add further reinforcement of critical think-
ing about corrections today, all tied to the chapter’s learning objectives. And For
Critical Thinking and Writing assignments are presented in all of the boxed features
in the text, as well.

Chapter-by-Chapter Changes
in the Fourth Edition

Chapter 1 This chapter covers the case of Dylann Roof who killed nine churchgoers
in Charleston, South Carolina, and asks the question of how someone like him
should be sentenced. The chapter reviews Chicago-based John Howard Association’s
documentation of complaints from prisoners revealing that Vienna Correctional
Center, once a model of corrections, has deteriorated and become a hellhole. The
chapter has new material on trends in the prison population.

Chapter 2 New material is included on the impact of victim statements. The
sections on race and sentencing and the use of guidelines has been revised.

Chapter 3 This chapter provides current statewide figures of the arming of
probation officers. There is a new section on technological innovations in probation.
We give specific examples of how the field of probation has seen a substantial increase
in the use of remote technologies.

Chapter 4 This chapter provides updated and expanded information on statewide
criminal forfeiture reforms as well as an in-depth look into a California probation
department that utilizes house arrest and other community supervision measures. Recent
evaluations of home monitoring programs such as those that use GPS are explored,
including national studies seeking to identify the most effective form of probation
supervision. An expanded section of “Specialized Courts” is provided, including updated
figures and recent evaluations of drug courts, homeless courts, and boot camps.

Chapter 5 This chapter provides updated figures on jail populations and recent trends
in the United States, including the most recent data on Indian Country jails. The effects
of depopulation efforts in California prisons and the consolidation of mental health
clinics in Chicago are also explored. Expanded information is provided on the nationally
sponsored Transition from Jail to Community (TJC) initiative that seeks to increase the
success of reentry. Up-to-date research concerning correctional officer occupation risks is
included. The most recent statistics concerning jail mortality are provided.

Chapter 6 This chapter provides updated and the most recent demographic
statistics concerning state and federal prison populations, as well as expanded
information on federal drug and vocational programs. The most recent data
concerning within-institution abuse are included. Privatization of prison statistics are
expanded and updated, including recent rulings concerning the treatment of inmates in private prisons. There is an updated Technocorrections feature on biometric recognition and new section on airspace monitoring in this chapter.

Chapter 7 This chapter has expanded discussion of prison classification in the United States as well as updated statistics concerning prison gang populations. A Technocorrections feature provides expanded information and types of “Nonlethal Weapons in Prison.” The chapter also includes a discussion of how recent drone technology is used to bring contraband into prisons. Recent data concerning the prevalence of victimization within prisons are provided, as well as recent changes in the female prison population.

Chapter 8 This chapter includes expanded discussion of prisoners’ rights and coverage of how the Bill of Rights has been interpreted to provide—or limit—prisoners’ rights. Recent examples of challenges to unfair treatment in prison are provided. The discussion of post-9/11 restriction of habeas corpus is expanded as well.

Chapter 9 Information is provided concerning the Second Chance Act and funding allocations to hundreds of projects focused on prisoner reentry. Expanded discussion of popular and effective correctional treatment—such as cognitive behavioral therapy—is provided. Recent data concerning Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP) facilities and program characteristics are also included. Research examining the effects of therapeutic communities (TC) is discussed. There is now discussion of alternative treatment programs for anger management, such as art therapy, as well as expanded information concerning prison service dog programs and education initiatives within the correctional system. Up-to-date information concerning medical services and prevalence of medical needs are included.

Chapter 10 This chapter includes expanded and updated sections on the abolition of parole, specifically concerning the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, the restriction of federal parole, and a case-in-point discussion of the parole board in Texas. Recent research concerning COMPAS, the use and efficacy of parole hearings, as well as discussions of parole officer powers and the relationship between parole, probation, and departments of corrections are included. Recent research on factors relating to the granting of parole is also examined.

Chapter 11 This chapter provides up-to-date statistics concerning the prison population, specifically by age (elderly) and crime type (sex offender). Expanded discussion of substance abuse programs available to prisoners and mental health screening tools are also included. A contemporary discussion was added to sections that examine illegal immigrants and terrorists in prison. Updated data are provided with an overview of involuntarily commitment of certain classifications of sex offenders.

Chapter 12 The most recent statistics concerning capital punishment are provided in this chapter, as well as a discussion of public opinion and the death penalty, and mental illness and the death penalty. The chapter also includes an updated comparative section that examines international use of capital punishment, as well as an expanded discussion of race and capital punishment. More recent data on deterrence and the death penalty are included as well.

Chapter 13 This chapter provides up-to-date statistics concerning victimization data, the number of juveniles on probation, and population trends in juvenile corrections. Expanded coverage of juvenile boot camps, racial inequality, blended sentencing, and the comparison of public and private institutions are also included. Regional disparities in juvenile incarceration are explored. Special attention is paid to the Model for Change initiative meant to improve juvenile aftercare and chances of successful reentry.
Learning Tools

In keeping with our desire to create the most student-centric text available, we have created a complete learning system. Each chapter begins with a set of learning objectives, which are also integrated in the chapter where each learning objective is addressed, and keyed to the summary at the end of the chapter for optimum reinforcement. Key concepts and terms are previewed in the chapter opener, boldfaced in the text where they are introduced and defined, and are repeated in the running marginal glossary. Additionally, we have included the following boxes and features to help students get the most out of the course.

The Corrections Professional  In this feature, real-world professionals share their firsthand experiences and give students a concrete view of what it’s like to work in a variety of corrections careers.

Careers in Corrections  Throughout the book, we highlight a variety of careers in corrections by giving students “snapshots” of corrections careers.

Evidence-Based Corrections  This box focuses on policies and practices that are supported by research, a key driver in the field today. We include critical thinking and writing activities with Evidence-Based Corrections throughout the text.

Technocorrections  These boxes spotlight the use of cutting-edge technology to supervise offenders in the community and in correctional institutions. For example, a Technocorrections feature in Chapter 7 covers nonlethal weapons in prison.

Thinking Like a Corrections Professional  These boxes give students an opportunity to decide how they think a corrections professional would handle a particular situation. Many of these features represent actual situations that have taken place, while others are possible scenarios.

Myth/Fact Boxes  Each chapter contains Myth/Fact boxes designed to separate myth from reality and thereby inform students of the incorrect notions, perceptions, and biases they bring to class as a result of what they see on television or read in fiction and on the Internet.

End-of-Chapter Review  Each chapter includes a chapter summary linked back to the chapter-opening learning objectives and a set of critical thinking questions designed to help students think critically about the material.

Ancillary Materials

MindTap® for Criminal Justice  The most applied learning experience available, MindTap is dedicated to preparing students to make the kinds of reasoned decisions they will have to as criminal justice professionals faced with real-world challenges. Available for virtually every Criminal Justice course, MindTap offers customizable content, course analytics, an e-reader, and more—all within your current learning management system. With its rich array of assets—video cases, interactive visual summaries, decision-making scenarios, quizzes, and writing skill builders—MindTap is perfectly suited to today’s students of criminal justice, engaging them, guiding them toward mastery of basic concepts, and advancing their critical thinking abilities.

Online Instructor’s Manual with Lesson Plans  The manual includes learning objectives, key terms, a detailed chapter outline, a chapter summary, lesson