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Dilemma of Duties
The Conflicted Role of Juvenile Defenders

“Corbin sheds light on the often overlooked complexity of what it means to defend children.”—Tim Curry, Legal Director at the National Juvenile Defender Center, in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Books

Anne M. Corbin

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“Provides an important contribution to the field by examining the role that the media plays in our constructions of life behind bars.”—Rebecca Rodriguez Carey, International Criminal Justice Review

DEMYSTIFYING THE BIG HOUSE
EXPLORING PRISON EXPERIENCE AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIONS

Edited by KATHERINE A. FOSS

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Essays in this volume illustrate how shows such as *Orange Is the New Black* and *Oz* impact the public’s perception of crime rates, the criminal justice system, and imprisonment. Contributors look at transgender prisoners, black masculinity, portrayals of death row, breastfeeding while in prison, and prison wives on reality television series. They also examine the ways in which media messages ignore an individual’s struggle against an all too frequently biased system and instead dehumanize the incarcerated as violent and overwhelmingly masculine. Together these essays argue media reform is necessary for penal reform, proposing that more accurate media representations of prison life could improve public support for programs dealing with poverty, abuse, and drug addiction—factors that increase the likelihood of criminal activity and incarceration.

Scholars from cultural and critical studies, feminist studies, queer studies, African American studies, media studies, sociology, and psychology offer critical analysis of media depictions of prison, bridging the media’s portrayals of incarcerated lives with actual experiences and bringing to light forgotten voices in prison narratives.

**Katherine A. Foss** is an associate professor in the School of Journalism at Middle Tennessee State University. She is the author of *Breastfeeding and Media: Exploring Conflicting Discourses That Threaten Public Health and Television* and *Health Responsibility in an Age of Individualism*.

In *Dilemma of Duties: The Conflicted Role of Juvenile Defenders*, Anne M. Corbin examines the distinct function of defense counsel in juvenile courts, demonstrating the commonplace presence of role conflict and confusion, even among defenders in jurisdictions that clearly define their role. This study focuses on juvenile defense attorneys in North Carolina, where it is mandated that counselors advocate for their client’s wishes, even if they do not agree it is in the client’s best interest.

This book outlines patterns of role conflict that defenders experience, details the impact of such conflict on counselors and clients in the juvenile justice system, and addresses the powerful influence of the juvenile court culture and the lack of resources for defenders. Tasked with guiding these children, counselors frequently must contend with and manage their clients’ general distrust of adults as they attempt to serve as their voices to the court.

Understanding how juvenile defenders define their role and how they experience role conflict provides valuable insights into our juvenile justice system, especially its role in upholding due process rights. Such knowledge points to the importance of the training and practices of juvenile court functionaries and the efficacy, credibility, and legitimacy of the juvenile justice system itself.

**Anne M. Corbin** is a law-trained social scientist whose research centers on the professional development of lawyers. She has consulted periodically for the Police Foundation and taught at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, Thomas College in Maine, Elon University, and Michigan State University. She currently serves the state of Vermont’s professional development needs and resides there with her family.

**Coming Soon!**

*No Return, No Escape, No Regrets: Street Gang Membership in Boston; A Life Course Perspective* by Paul F. Joyce Jr.

*Institutional Sexual Abuse in the MeToo Era* by Jason D. Spraitz and Kendra N. Bowen

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