
Preface

NANCY E. DOWD

This project has been a labor of love and passion by people who care deeply about the juvenile justice system, and even more deeply about children. It is part of the Juvenile Justice Project of the Center on Children and Families at the University of Florida Levin College of Law. The project began with critical work by Shani King (the codirector of the center), Lauren Fasig, Meshon Rawls, Monique Haughton-Worrell, and Iris Burke, as well as the Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations (CSRRL) at the College of Law, directed by Katheryn Russell-Brown, together with Melissa Bamba, the CSRRL assistant director. The book has also benefited from connections with the Harvard Child Advocacy Project and the Georgetown Juvenile Justice Clinic, with critical contributions by Jessica Budnitz of the Child Advocacy Project and Kristin Henning, professor and codirector of the Juvenile Justice Clinic.

Two energetic research assistants contributed to the volume: Jessica Harrison (JD 2010) and Sarah Hensen (JD 2010). Debbie Willis, the coordinator of everyone and everything at the Center on Children and Families, also contributed enormously to the success of this project. The College of Law has been supportive of this project and this book in many tangible and intangible ways. Dean Robert Jerry and Senior Associate Dean William Page have been remarkable supports.

When you work in this area, sometimes there are particular sources of insight and inspiration, and for this book two in particular stand out: Shay Bilchik and Geoffrey Canada. Shay Bilchik has given us a road map for change. Geoffrey Canada has shown us what that looks like, in microcosm, in the Harlem Children's Zone. Both perspectives are essential, as are each of the specific pieces in the chapters here.

It has been an amazing process putting this book together. The authors have been dedicated and hard working, making this an easy task for me as the editor.

Our greatest hope is to make a difference.

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