

DUQUESNE CRIMINAL LAW JOURNAL

This publication is dedicated to the advancement of scholarship in the field of law in which the contours of “justice” are most profoundly defined. The criminal law represents the most pervasive grant of power the governed ever bestows upon government: the power to take the freedom or the life of an individual in the name of the common good. So ominous is this grant, the governed have conditioned it upon the exercise of multiple layers of process covering the legislative, investigatory and prosecutive phases of its exercise. It is by the construction of that process that we seek to have this system produce the elusive yet ultimately treasured quality we call “justice.”

The students of Duquesne University School of Law endeavor to make this body of writings an authoritative source on the cutting edge issues facing the judges and practitioners who make the criminal process a reality in the courts of the Commonwealth and the United States. The students are aided most ably by a group of criminal law experts who have agreed to serve as peer-reviewers for the articles that will appear in this Journal to assure the reader of the depth and quality of the scholarship it presents.

The standards for excellence imposed by the editors are high in proper recognition of the gravity of the subject matter of the criminal law. Those standards will hopefully insure that the thoughts published here may be relied upon by those into whose hands society entrusts its criminal justice system and stimulate their thoughtful consideration of refinements of that system necessary to advance the cause of justice.

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