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The Editors

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Juvenile Justice: An Explored Unsettled Frontier of the Law

Juvenile justice is a frontier of the law, explored and unexplored, settled and unsettled. Judges, lawyers, legislators, administrators, social scientists, students . . . are unhappily aware that the administration of juvenile justice is a matter of constant continuing concern. The Duquesne Law Review has devoted this issue to juvenile justice and has manifested this concern in several areas.

The administrative and judicial systems which ultimately lead to child detention have been systematically observed—these systems can stand rigorous observation for they are not, and should not be, immutable. Observations and contributions have been made by members of the Pennsylvania judiciary, and by several prominent academicians.

The roles and responsibilities of lawyers and administrators when dealing with delinquent children have been investigated. Hundreds of questionnaires were distributed to institutionalized delinquents throughout the Commonwealth. The responses indicated that lawyers and administrators are frequently unaware and insensitive to the many problems of representing a child. The research that has been devoted to this area, it is hoped, will reveal important insights for potential change.

The remainder of this issue penetrates the problem inherent in dependent neglect proceedings, a problem of recurrent anxiety, and goes on to analyze the most recent decisions in the juvenile system. The trend of the law in this area is not molecular. Children, even delinquent children, have rights.

The Duquesne Law Review respectfully acknowledges the contributions of the judges, lawyers, administrators and students, and particularly the cooperation of the hundreds of institutionalized children throughout the Commonwealth, that have made this publication possible.

THE EDITORS