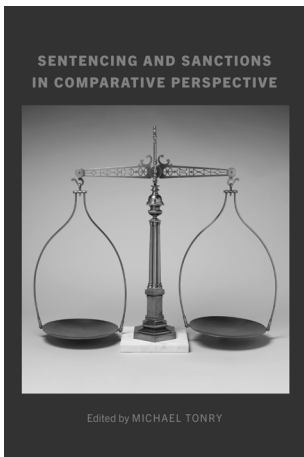




Sentencing and Sanctions in Comparative Perspective

Crime and Justice, Volume 55

Edited by Michael Tonry

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Sentencing and Sanctions in Comparative Perspective examines the character, operation, and evolution of sentencing systems in 12 Western countries and Japan. Except in the United States, sentencing looks and works much as it did 50 years ago. It is a weighty matter, the paradigm instance of conflict between the individual and the state: People's property, liberty, and in a few countries lives are at stake. It deserves to be dealt with seriously, solemnly, and justly. In most Western countries and Japan, it is. Judges and prosecutors are career civil servants insulated from media, political, and public opinion pressures and politicians recognize that their role is to establish frameworks for decision-making but not to meddle in individual cases. The sad and very different American story has often been told, including several times in *Crime and Justice*.

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