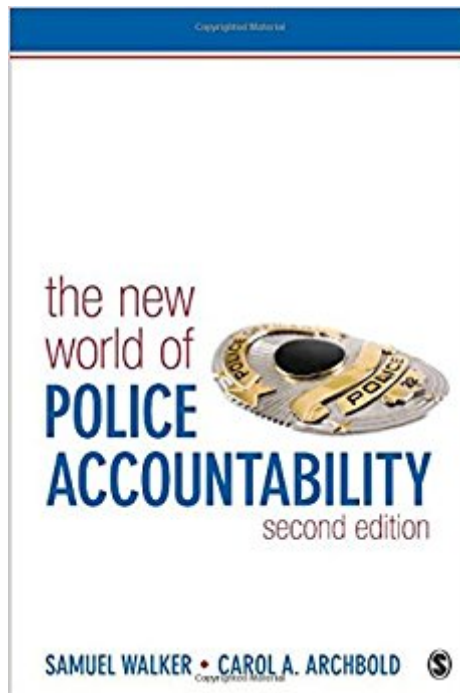




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The New World Of Police Accountability



Synopsis

The subject of police accountability includes some of the most important developments in American policing: the control of officer-involved shootings and use of force; citizen complaints and the best procedures for handling them; federal "pattern or practice" litigation against police departments; allegations of race discrimination; early intervention systems to monitor officer behavior; and police self-monitoring efforts. The Second Edition of *The New World of Police Accountability* covers these subjects and more with a sharp and critical perspective. It provides readers with a comprehensive description of the most recent developments and an analysis of what works, what reforms are promising, and what has proven unsuccessful. The book offers detailed coverage of critical incident reporting; pattern analysis of critical incidents; early intervention systems; internal and external review of citizen complaints; and federal consent decrees.

Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: SAGE Publications, Inc; 2 edition (December 11, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1452286876

ISBN-13: 978-1452286877

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #132,470 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in Books > Law > Ethics & Professional Responsibility #268 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics &

Government > Specific Topics > Law Enforcement #271 in Books > Law > Criminal Law > Law Enforcement

Customer Reviews

Samuel Walker is Professor Emeritus of Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. After retiring in 2005 he has continued his research, writing and consulting on police accountability, citizen oversight of the police, early intervention systems for police officers, and civil liberties. Professor Walker is the author of 14 books, which have appeared in 33 different editions. His most recent book is *Presidents and Civil Liberties from Wilson to Obama* (2012). His other books include *The Police in America: An Introduction* [with Charles M. Katz] (8th ed., 2013), *Police Accountability: The Role of Citizen Oversight* (2001), *Taming the System: The Control of*

Discretion in Criminal Justice, 1950-1990 (1993), Sense and Nonsense About Crime (7th ed., 2011), The Color of Justice: Race, Ethnicity, and Crime in America (with C. Spohn & M. DeLone) (5th ed., 2003), and In Defense of American Liberties: A History of the ACLU (2nd ed., 2000). He is the author of Early Intervention Systems for Law Enforcement Agencies: A Planning and Management Guide (2003), published by the COPS Office of the U.S. Department of Justice. Professor Walker has served as a consultant to the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and to police departments, local governments and community groups in over 35 cities and counties across the country on different police issues. Professor Walker also maintains electronic resources for students and instructors interested in learning more about police accountability at: samuelwalker.net. Carol A. Archbold is an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota. She earned her PhD from the University of Nebraska-Omaha in 2002. Dr. Archbold's research interests include women in policing, police accountability and liability, police handling of sexual assault cases, and police and race issues. She has published articles in such journals as Police Quarterly, Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management, International Journal of Police Science and Management, Police Practice and Research: An International Journal, Journal of Criminal Justice, and the Journal of Crime and Justice. In 2004, Dr. Archbold published a book based on the first national study of the use of risk management in law enforcement in the United States, Police Accountability, Risk Management and Legal Advising (LFB Scholarly Publishing). This study was the focus of her dissertation. Along with Samuel Walker and Leigh Herbst (Culver), she was a contributing author for "Mediating Citizen Complaints Against Police Officers: A Guide for Police and Citizens," funded by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC). In 2011, she was one of three authors of a reader, Women and Policing in America: Classic and Contemporary Readings (Aspen Publishing), with Dorothy Moses Schulz and Kimberly Hassell. Dr. Archbold authored "Policing: A Text/Reader" for SAGE Publications in 2012. She recently completed a study which examines how an increase in population from an oil boom impacts the police and crime in western North Dakota, and is currently working on a national study of police misconduct.

If you're looking for a how-to guide on dealing with individual police encounters, NWPA is not for you. Nor is it for you if you're someone trying to fight criminal charges or thinking about suing the police for civil damages. However, if you're a law enforcement manager, a civil rights lawyer, or a community activist involved in police accountability issues NWPA will quickly get

you up to speed on the most effective practices in the universe of police accountability. As for me, I'm currently developing a new online police complaints service. But like many neophyte police accountability professionals, I arrived with some common, but wrongheaded, assumptions regarding the most effective police accountability policies. For example, like many libertarian-minded police reformers, I've generally been skeptical of heavy-handed federal involvement in state policing issues. However, the authors convincingly illustrate how the Department of Justice's "pattern or practice" lawsuits against persistently abusive big-city departments have had an overwhelmingly positive impact on American policing. Moreover, these lawsuits have "defined a short list of basic accountability procedures: state-of-the-art use of force policies, an open and accessible citizen complaint procedure, and an early intervention system." Essentially, the lawsuits have helped establish a comprehensive set of best practices that when put into place significantly improve bonds of trust between the police and the public.

The Problem of "Celebrated Cases" This second edition of NWPAA was published in 2014, perhaps mere weeks or months before the police killing of Michael Brown (and Eric Garner soon after) pushed the problem of police abuse into the public consciousness like never before. Yet the authors are keenly aware of the problematic ways that such "celebrated cases" tend to "distort public perception of the current state of American policing." Taken out of context, this de-emphasis of such high-profile incidents might seem like an attempt to dismiss the horrors of such police-involved killings. But the authors have a more subtle and important point. Namely, such cases tend to emphasize less-effective responses (e.g. more officer prosecutions) that "obscure important changes that occur quietly, including many important reforms." Those important reforms include the implementation of state-of-the-art use of force policies, improved early intervention systems, and open and accessible citizen complaint procedures. None of these goals are likely to animate the passions of civil right protesters, but the evidence suggests that they offer the best policy bang for our bucks.

I was required to use this book for a police accountability course at my university. I enjoyed how short the chapters were, because the authors' got to the point quickly. They also provided very detailed examples of each topic they covered, which made it easier to understand real-world applications of each practice. As far as just every-day reading, it might be difficult to understand if you don't have at least a basic understanding of criminal justice and law enforcement, but it was an excellent textbook for my class!

The definitive book by the definitive author.

well written on modern times of law enforcement

I thought it would show a brak-down of how to work out the problems.

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