Children, Social Science, and the Law

*Children, Social Science, and the Law* broadens our conceptualization of the topic of children and law, addressing a wide-ranging set of issues in great need of theoretical, empirical, and legislative attention. The chapters, written by an impressive array of social science and legal experts, confront many difficult questions relating to child abuse, children’s eyewitness testimony, divorce and custody, juvenile crime, and children’s rights. For example, are the rights that our nation’s laws ascribe to children commensurate with their capabilities and needs? How should laws governing the punishment of crime acknowledge developmental differences between adult and juvenile offenders? With its unique integration of psychological research, social policy, and legal analysis, the volume is an important resource for any professional concerned with children and the law.

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Children, Social Science, and the Law

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For my husband, Gary, and for dedicated front-line professionals like my friends Erin Sorenson and Alison Perona, who spend their lives helping children who become entangled in the legal system. (BLB)

For Hope. It is my hope that she will never have need for the wisdom in this book. (MBK)

For my mom Marnie, my dad Bob, and my brother Curtis, who still to this day do not understand exactly what it is that I do and why. I love you all dearly. (BDM)
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Acknowledgments

The seeds of this book were sown while two of us (BLB and MBK) co-chaired the Children and Law Subcommittee of the American Psychology-Law Society’s Women and Law Committee. Through conversations with other members of this subcommittee, it became clear that there was a need for a single resource on children and the law to which researchers, legal scholars, policy makers, and front-line professionals could turn for advice and inspiration. We are grateful to those women who so generously gave of their time and knowledge while we began to form our vision of what such a resource would encompass.

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