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Charles M. Katz and Vincent J. Webb
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Policing Gangs in America

Policing Gangs in America describes the assumptions, issues, problems, and events that characterize, shape, and define the police response to gangs in America today. The primary focus of the book is on the gang unit officers and the environment in which they work. A discussion of research, statistical facts, theory, and policy with regard to gangs, gang members, and gang activity is used as a backdrop. The book is broadly focused on describing how gang units respond to community gang problems and answers such questions as: Why do police agencies organize their responses to gangs in certain ways? Who are the people who choose to police gangs? How do they make sense of gang members – individuals who spark fear in most citizens? What are their jobs really like? What characterizes their working environment? How do their responses to the gang problem fit with other policing strategies, such as community policing?

Dr. Charles M. Katz received his Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is currently an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Arizona State University. Dr. Katz has coauthored or coedited two previous books and has been published in several scholarly journals, including *Criminology*, *Justice Quarterly*, and *Crime and Delinquency*. Dr. Katz has conducted research in more than twenty police agencies across the United States as well as in several state and federal agencies.

Dr. Vincent J. Webb received his Ph.D. in sociology from Iowa State University. He served as chair of the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha for more than twenty years and as chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Arizona State University for seven years. In 2005 he joined the faculty at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale as Director of the Center for the Study of Crime, Delinquency and Corrections. Dr. Webb has published in a variety of criminology and criminal justice journals, and he is the coauthor and coeditor of three other books on criminal justice topics. He is a former President of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

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