Beyond Bars

A Path Forward from 50 Years of Mass Incarceration in the United States

Edited by Kristen M. Budd, The Sentencing Project, David C. Lane, Illinois State University, Glenn W. Muschert, Khalifa University of Science and Technology and Jason A. Smith, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan

“This important volume tackles US mass incarceration head-on, adeptly explaining its failed promises, illuminating the extensive costs to communities and families, and offering realistic solutions. It’s a must-read for anyone seeking to understand this broken penal system and a practical guide for those who yearn to repair it.” Julie B. Wiest, West Chester University of Pennsylvania

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The year 2023 marks 50 years of mass incarceration in the United States. This timely volume highlights and addresses pressing social problems associated with the US’s heavy reliance on mass imprisonment. In an atmosphere of charged political debate, including “tough on crime” rhetoric, the editors bring together scholars and experts in the criminal justice field to provide the most up-to-date science on mass incarceration and its ramifications on justice-impacted people and our communities.

This book offers practical solutions for advocates, policy and lawmakers, and the wider public for addressing mass incarceration and its effects to create a more just, fair and safer society.
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About the Authors

Kristen M. Budd is a Research Analyst at The Sentencing Project.

Glenn W. Muschert is a Professor of Sociology in the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences at Khalifa University of Science and Technology.

David C. Lane is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice Sciences at Illinois State University.

Jason A. Smith is a Research Affiliate at the Center for Social Science Research at George Mason University.

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