

## BOOK REVIEWS

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### ***Standards for Juvenile Justice: A Summary and Analysis, and Standards Relating to Noncriminal Misbehavior***

By The Institute of Judicial Administration and the American Bar Association. Two volumes from a complete set of 23 volumes prepared by the IJA-ABA Joint Commission on Juvenile Justice Standards. Cambridge, MA: Ballinger Publishing Co., 1982. ***Summary and Analysis***: 336 pp., \$29.00 (hardcover); \$15.00 (paper).

***Noncriminal Misbehavior***: 96 pp., \$14.50 (hardcover); \$7.50 (paper).

Two presidential commissions on crime and criminal justice in 1967 and in 1973 made numerous recommendations pertaining to the establishment of guidelines and standards to achieve a number of goals. These included: (a) to achieve greater uniformity in the administration of law regardless of jurisdiction; (b) to facilitate interorganizational coordination and linkage within the justice system; (c) to reexamine traditional concepts and premises; (d) to codify relevant case law, administrative decisions, and basic principles; (e) to achieve greater accountability among all levels of law enforcement personnel; and (f) to control unbridled discretion. Not surprisingly, there was substantial effort at both the federal and state levels to establish such standards, and these efforts were handsomely funded with federal grant dollars from the U.S. Department of Justice and several foundations. Progress has been quite limited in the adult system except for the work of the American Correctional Association in establishing national accreditation procedures built around detailed standards governing organizational behavior in corrections, but there is very little evidence that positive changes have resulted because of the tremendous increases in incarceration in most states in recent years. As a result of overcrowding, conditions and procedures in most areas have deteriorated below those that existed prior to the establishment of the standards. Thus, without complementary policies in other areas it is unlikely that standards alone will do much to improve the behavior of the justice system.

The juvenile justice system stands in sharp contrast to the adult system—at least as far as effort and resources expended in developing operational standards. Four nationally prominent organizations developed and issued standards for juvenile justice during the late 1970s and early 1980s. They include the:

1. Task Force on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the National Advisory Commission on Correctional Standards and Goals—1973;