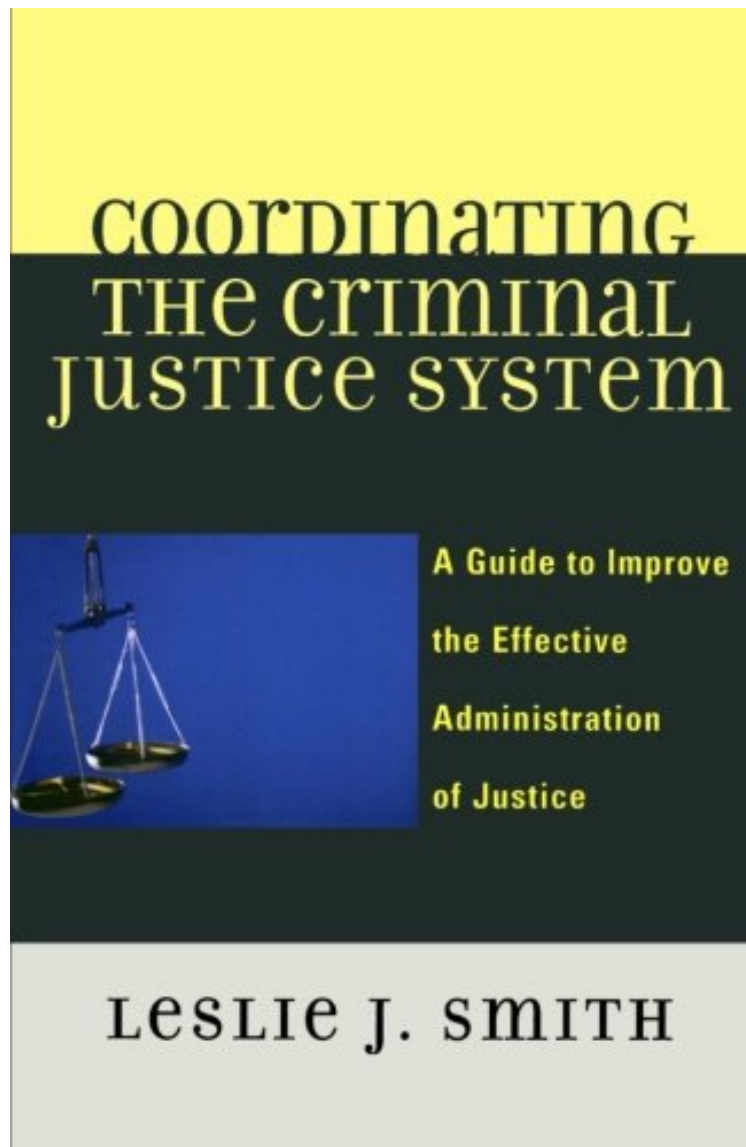


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Coordinating the Criminal Justice System: A Guide to Improve the Effective Administration of Justice

Leslie J. Smith

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#5577342 in Books University Press of America 2007-11-12 2007-11-12 Original language: English PDF # 1
9.00 x .41 x 6.071, .43 #File Name: 0761839399128 pages | File size: 36.Mb

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Coordinating the Criminal Justice System: A Guide to Improve the Effective Administration of Justice:

This guide was developed to assist students, professors, executives of local criminal justice systems, and appointed and elected officials of general government to have a better understanding on how the criminal justice system should function. It may also be of special interest to citizens and public officials who sense that more collaboration and coordination is needed to enhance criminal justice decision making which, in turn, will have a positive impact on local criminal justice systems. Leslie J. Smith advocates that the performance of the criminal justice system should be measured in terms of achieving the goals and objectives of each component collectively. Although the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of the U.S. government are constitutionally independent and not required to engage in any coordinated planning activities, these requirements should not lead to poor performance. It is essential to promote positive government through increased collaboration by identifying philosophical principles that will promote the participation of citizens, law enforcement, judiciary, prosecution, corrections, victims, treatment providers, and educators in the development of strategies to prevent, reduce and control crime. There are approximately twenty states throughout the United States that have fostered criminal justice collaborations of this type. The key to accomplishing this objective is effective leadership. This approach is growing in popularity and this book will assist in the further development of this strategy. This guide provides a step-by-step strategy that simplifies the aforementioned issues.

About the Author Leslie J. Smith is the Criminal Justice Coordinator for the Tarrant County Administrators Office in Fort Worth, Texas. He has earned both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice Administration. The position oversees the activities of the Tarrant County criminal justice system and serves as a liaison between elected officials, department heads, chief administrators and other agencies of federal, state and local governments, and business.