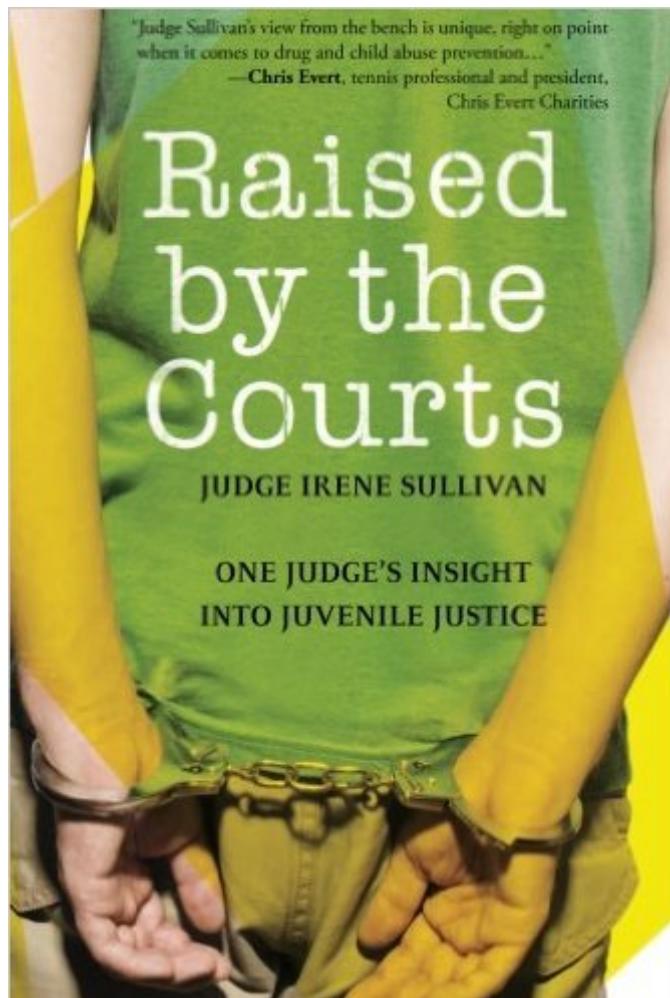


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Raised By The Courts: One Judge's Insight Into Juvenile Justice



Synopsis

A veteran judge shares her vision for ending the vicious cycle of child abuse and crime. When 19-year-old Leo Boatman was convicted of the brutal murders of two college students, he told the judge, "I can't offer an explanation because there is none". But Judge Irene Sullivan knew there had to be more to the story than just a senseless crime, and she was determined to discover the root cause of Boatman's behavior. Corresponding with him in prison, Judge Sullivan learned of the failures and abuses of every system Boatman had passed through, each intended to prevent such a devastating turn of events. Drawing on years of work with thousands of children, Judge Sullivan presents a plan for breaking the vicious cycle of child abuse and crime that causes such tragedies. Through eye-opening stories from both her own courtroom and the system at large, Judge Irene reveals what works for young people in jeopardy. The results are surprisingly optimistic: few would have guessed that the most successful programs are also among the most cost-effective and practical. Raised by the Courts will be a source of hope and clarity for those who care about ending the cycle of violent crime among the youngest and most vulnerable members of society.

Book Information

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Kaplan Publishing; 2d edition (November 2, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 160714638X

ISBN-13: 978-1607146384

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (26 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #235,671 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 inÂ Books > Law > Family Law > Child Advocacy #247 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Law > Criminal Law #400 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Criminology

Customer Reviews

In *Raised by the Courts* , Justice Irene Sullivan incorporates nine years of experience on the bench to educate, illuminate and motivate readers toward a shift in American juvenile justice policy. In this sweeping work covering personal stories of affected youth; critical elements within the judicial, commitment and legislative systems; and a host of programs from her home state of Florida and beyond, Judge Sullivan brings a singular and galvanizing voice to a growing national tragedy. The

author's argument begins with the premise that America is now known as "incarceration nation". A century of world leadership modeling humane, effective treatment for juveniles has given way to America's current and dubious distinction for locking up more youth than any other country in the world. Presenting evidence that's both practical and empirical, Judge Sullivan argues for a shift away from traditional commitment sentences and a move toward alternative programs that assist young people in learning productive life skills in positive, formative environments. Her arguments contend that early intervention, rehabilitation, and community-based programs that address high-risk families reduce incarceration, avoid recitivism and save huge sums of taxpayer money. For me, the read proved challenging - not because it was written in legalese or dry, textbook language. To the contrary, Judge Sullivan's work can be as easily understood by the layman as it is for academic, correctional, public policy and legislative experts. Instead, I found myself too closely envisioning the lives, faces and nearly unfathomable sorrows of young children whose lives are cited within the pages of her book.

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