



THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE HISTORICAL TIME-LINE



AN OVERVIEW OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

What is criminal justice?

Criminal justice can be defined as the following: "a generic term for the procedure by which criminal conduct is investigated, evidence gathered, arrests made, charges brought, defenses raised, trials conducted, sentences rendered and punishment carried out" (law.com).

The criminal justice system is composed of three parts:

1. Law Enforcement
2. Courts
3. Corrections

There are numerous types of possible career opportunities in the criminal justice system.

- **1693:** The first uniformed police officer was employed in New York City.
- **1789:** The United States federal court system was created by the Judiciary Act.
- **1790:** The first jail was created in Pennsylvania, which would eventually be known as the Walnut Street Jail.
- **1850:** Allan Pinkerton created the first detective agency in America, which was known as the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, in Chicago.
- **1861:** The first parole system was created by Zebulon Brockway, and it was referred to as "indeterminate sentencing".
- **1892:** The first time fingerprints were used to solve a murder.
- **1908:** The Department of Investigation was created, which is known today as the **Federal Bureau of Investigation**.
- **1910:** Alice Wells was sworn into the LA Police Department and became the first female police officer.

THE AMERICAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



Interested in criminal justice? This brochure is intended to provide readers with all the basic information about the criminal justice system that they need to know.

Constructed by Colby Strickland

A MORE THOROUGH LOOK AT THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Criminal Justice Explained

As previously mentioned, the criminal justice system can be viewed as three separate parts that work together to prevent and to punish criminal behavior:

Law Enforcement

- ▶ The main purpose of law enforcement, which is often the most visible component of the criminal justice system, is to investigate crimes and arrest guilty individuals.
- ▶ Possible career opportunities include, but are not limited to, the following: police officers, detectives, police dispatchers, forensic science technicians, and criminal profilers.

The Courts

- ▶ The second component of the criminal justice system, the courts, are responsible for determining whether or not an alleged criminal is guilty from a legal standpoint, and if so, to determine their sentence.
- ▶ Very few people actually go on trial: many accused criminals plead guilty and enter into a plea agreement, which often lessens their sentence.
- ▶ Possible career opportunities include, but are not limited to, the following: prosecutors, district attorneys, paralegals, bailiffs, judges, defense attorneys, and judges.

Corrections

- ▶ The third and final component of the criminal justice system, corrections, is responsible for administering sentences received during the courts process.
- ▶ Possible career opportunities include, but are not limited to, the following: correction officers, probation and parole officers, wardens, and prison psychologists.

"All decisions in the criminal justice system must be determined by the physical and scientific evidence, and the credible testimony corroborated by that evidence, not in response to public outcry."

- Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch

