

Contents

Preface	v
Chapter 1 Criminal Punishment and Society	1
What Do Judges Prefer to Do?	2
What Should Judges Do?	5
What Are Judges Able to Do?	7
Conclusion	13
Chapter 2 Methods	16
Study Site	16
Sample	18
Sentencing Outcomes	19
Case Characteristics	21
The Community Context	24
The Court	28
The Context of Time	34
Analytic Procedures	36
Analytic Strategy	37
Conclusion	38
Chapter 3 The Community and Sentencing	41
The Community and Sentencing	41
Case Characteristics and Sentencing	44
The Community as Context	45
Summary	80
Conclusion	85
Chapter 4 The Court and Sentencing	87
Court Variables and Sentencing	87
Case Characteristics and Sentencing	91
The Court as Context	92
Summary	122
Conclusion	125

Chapter 5	The Context of Time	127
	Sentencing Trends Over Time	127
	Trends in the Characteristics of Offenders	129
	The Effect of Time on Sentences	135
	The Context of Time	138
	Summary	164
	Conclusion	169
Chapter 6	Summary and Conclusions	170
	Summary	170
	Theoretical Significance	176
	Practical Significance	179
	Appendix A: The Consequences of Aggregating Judicial Information	185
	Appendix Tables	188
	References and Court Cases	197
	Author Index	211
	Subject Index	215