

## What's New in 2016–2017 Edition

This year's edition of **Iowa Practice-Criminal Law** incorporates significant discussions regarding the following areas:

- In 2016 the Iowa Supreme Court held that life without parole for juveniles who committed offenses while under the age of 18 categorically violated the Iowa Constitution. (*State v. Sweet*)
- The Iowa Supreme Court revisited the issue of sufficiency of evidence where the state relies on multiple theories for a conviction but the trial court only submits a general form of verdict. The court reversed a conviction where one theory was not supported by sufficient evidence, even though the other three theories were. (*State v. Schlitter*)
- The Iowa Supreme Court mandated that trial courts advise defendants of all consequences of a guilty plea where such consequence is “mandatory, immediate and part of the punishment.” (*State v. Fisher*)
- The Iowa Supreme Court held that an inoperable stun gun was a dangerous weapon. (*State v. Howse*)
- The legislature created the new crime of Robbery in Third Degree; provided for the reduction of mandatory minimum sentences in certain drug and robbery offenses; and expanded credit card fraud for individuals securing credit cards using a minor's identity.

These are a few highlights of the current edition that readers will find informative and useful in their practice and discussions with colleagues.

Again, special thanks to Drake Law School and the research assistance of Kylie Crawford who made this project possible; and to the members of the legal profession who teach, legislate, litigate, and decide the issues that affect one of the most dynamic areas of society—Criminal Law.

FOR SAM, GLENN, AND LOUISE

ROBERT R. RIGG