

# Denver Law Review

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Volume 27  
Issue 7 *Symposium - Juvenile Delinquency*

Article 2

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June 2021

## Foreword

Dicta Editorial Board

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### Recommended Citation

Foreword, 27 Dicta 235 (1950).

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## A SYMPOSIUM ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

### FOREWORD

In recognition of the widespread realization by lawyers that they have an obligation to society above and beyond the services which they render for their clients, the editors of *DICTA* feel that it would be appropriate to present from time to time articles upon matters of a social, economic, or governmental nature which call for more attention by members of the profession. With this thought in mind, this issue presents a symposium on the subject of juvenile delinquency.

Such a symposium, of course, is a deviation from the established practice of dealing only with topics of a legal nature. However, a satisfactory solution to juvenile delinquency, as well as many other social and economic problems, may well be awaiting an enlightened leadership by members of the legal profession, either in an official capacity or as private citizens.

The first four articles presented herein point-up the fact that different approaches to the problem of juvenile delinquency may be expected from a judge, a law school professor, a psychologist, and a director of a social agency. Nevertheless, the reader will observe considerable area of common agreement among these contributors that could serve as the working basis for real progress in this field. The fifth article outlines the efforts that one state has taken in an attempt to prevent delinquents from becoming criminals. Also of interest should be the review of two recent publications of the U. S. Children's Bureau summarizing the laws and suggesting improvements in guardianship and adoption.

## CHILDREN IN COURT

HON. PHILIP B. GILLIAM

*Judge, Juvenile and Family Court, Denver, Colorado*

In these days of widespread tensions arising out of the troubled times at home and abroad, it is not surprising to find the problems of juvenile delinquency occupying a prominent place in the thinking of our people. Radio stations and newspapers throughout the country have played up the increase in juvenile crime and delinquency. Magazines and other publications have made feature articles out of it.

Reports from throughout the country indicate a slight increase in juvenile delinquency, but not nearly so much as one would be led to believe from reading the news articles. Press sensationalism is an old and well-worn device for increasing circulation, and there is an avid, if not morbid and revealing, hunger on the part of many people for such news.

Alarmed by the rising tide of violence accompanying some of the juvenile crimes, there has come into being a regressive change in the perspective of many otherwise objective people, accompanied by a significant and disturbing demand for harsher measures in dealing with the juvenile offender. They would abandon the humanitarian gains of the decades and return to the repressive and brutal measures of an older day.

The gradual disappearance of home supervision partially explains the increase in complaints filed in the courts. This is verified by the great increase in complaints filed by the parents themselves regarding their unmanageable children, runaways, and sex delin-