

ently, the authors themselves conclude: “much remains to be learned” (p. 310).

REFERENCE

McINTYRE, Donald M. and David LIPPMAN (1970) “Prosecutors and Early Disposition of Felony Cases,” 56 *American Bar Association Journal* 1154.

AUTHORS’ REPLY

Professor Schumann’s review of *Felony Justice* will convey to those who have not read the book two erroneous conclusions. First, our approach to understanding felony court dispositions is not as narrow as Professor Schumann implies. We clearly do not conclude that workgroup characteristics “determine” the number of nonadversarial dispositions. The statistical analysis of correlates with guilty plea dispositions reported in Table 9.2 (p. 238) suggests the original charge, defendant characteristics, and strength of evidence play an important part in shaping how cases are handled. More significantly, it simply is not true that we ignore a macrostructural approach. Chapter 3 presents a theoretical discussion of the “ecology” of courtroom workgroups, including analyses of sponsoring organizations and *their* environments, appellate courts, the media, and the political environment. The descriptions of the cities’ disposition processes utilize these concepts, as do the substantive data analysis chapters and the concluding chapters. Second, our argument that decisions about how to dispose of cases result from interactions of work-groups is not an assumption, but is derived from our field research. In fact, this approach did not figure prominently in our conceptualization when we commenced our research in the field.

We will conclude our response with two additional brief comments. Our data do not support the reviewer’s assertion that only work-group cooperation allows for a steady flow of convictions. Indeed, in Baltimore we found workgroup cooperation low, but convictions flowed nonetheless. For what it is worth, neither of us personally favors “cooperative decision-making” even though some readers might conclude that we do. In fact, the term itself is misleading, because it conceals the widely divergent patterns of interaction that fall into the category of “cooperative.”

James Eisenstein

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