

Two volumes are titled “Milestones in the Law” and provide an overview of landmark cases, as well as reproductions of the briefs and opinions for each case. A single volume also reproduces key primary documents.—*Jacquelyn N. McCloud, J.D., M.L.I.S., Electronic Services Librarian, The University of Iowa Law Library, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa*

Women Criminals: An Encyclopedia of People and Issues. Ed. by Vickie Jensen. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2012. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-0-313-33713-0). E-book available (978-0-313-06826-3), call for pricing.

The Preface to this set describes women’s criminality as a growing area of scholarship that can no longer be encapsulated in a chapter or two in a criminology textbook or monograph. The scope of the work supports this assertion. The first volume in this set provides twelve well-researched essays written by scholars in the fields of criminology, sociology, criminal justice, and psychology. The second volume includes biographies of 135 women criminals dating back to the sixteenth century. The essays discuss topics such as the types of crimes women most often commit and diversity in relation to women’s crime, as well as specific types of crimes such as sexual offending, political crimes, and crimes of retaliation by women victims.

This set is easy to use and provides cross references between essays and biographical sketches. Criminals’ names appear in bold print within the essays. While this makes the woman’s biography relatively easy to find by name using the complete tables of contents appearing in both books, the inclusion of page numbers would also be helpful, but ultimately proves unnecessary. The appendixes featuring statistics and reports will also prove useful for students and researchers. An index appears at the end of Volume 2. Names, laws, organizations, and topics are indexed with page numbers.

This set works to establish connections between women’s (often gender-specific) experiences, the crimes that they commit, and how they are received and treated by the criminal justice system; however, the authors resist arguing for overly simplified causal connections between these elements. Clearly, this resource has a decidedly feminist flavor. While some readers may find ideological difficulty with this, the assertions of the authors are generally well documented by thorough research, sound logical reasoning, and statistical information. Perhaps most importantly, the biographical sketches are readable and interesting. Throughout the writing of this review, I have likely spent more time reading than truly necessary as a result of the engaging biographical sketches.

To my knowledge, there exist few reference works specifically dedicated to women’s criminality. One such volume is Nicole Hahn Rafter’s *Encyclopedia of Women and Crime* (Oryx 2000). This volume, in its Preface claims to be the “first comprehensive reference book on the topic of women and crime” (xxv). This work includes discussions of various types of crime, crime occurrence and corrections by geographical area, correctional systems, women in law enforcement and

the court systems, and only a few profiles of women criminals. The breadth of this work is wider and covers a larger number of topics than *Women Criminals*. *Women Criminals*, on the other hand, offers more detailed biographical sketches of women criminals and a more in-depth examination of the relationships between women criminals and the crimes they commit. The two works together will complement each other nicely without being duplicative.

In summary, while this set is somewhat costly, it is recommended for most academic libraries and public libraries with adequate funding. Libraries supporting programs in law enforcement, criminology, sociology, gender studies, and related disciplines will find this set particularly useful.—*Anita J. Slack, Information Services Librarian, Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana*

Women in American Politics: History and Milestones. By Doris Weatherford. Los Angeles: CQ Press, 2012. 2 vols. Acid free \$225 (ISBN 978-1-60871007-2). E-book available, call for pricing.

Doris Weatherford’s latest compilation chronicles the political history of American women in nineteen thematic chapters beginning with the suffrage movement’s achievement of the franchise and ending with a state-by-state overview that draws on her previous 4-volume *A History of Women in the United States: A State-By-State Reference* (Grolier Academic Reference, 2004). In between, chapters cover statewide elective officeholders, state legislators, congressional legislators, state governors and lieutenant governors, city mayors, presidential and vice presidential candidates, cabinet and sub-cabinet officers, ambassadors, the judiciary, political parties and conventions, interest groups, and PACs.

Each chapter presents a chronologically arranged historical overview of the subject at hand, tabulations such as Table 9.1 “First Female Mayors of Cities with More Than 150,000 Residents, by Year” (238) and Table 14.1 “First Women on State Supreme Courts, by State,” (360), selective biographical profiles of representative women, and a brief listing of references and suggestions for further reading. Black and white photographs illustrate some of the entries. Indexes to names and to subjects are in the back of each of the two volumes.

The numerous tabulations in *Women in American Politics* are especially useful and would be more so had the author listed the sources from which she drew these tallies. With few exceptions (see for example tables 5.3 “Total Number of Women Elected to State Senates, through 1960s, by Decade and State” [122] and 12.2 “Female Ambassadors, Both Political Appointees and Career Diplomats, 1933 to 1993 [323]), Weatherford covers the data in her tables with the general source note “Compiled by author.”

Among recent reference works the one-volume *Encyclopedia of Women and American Politics* edited by Lynne E. Ford (Facts on File, 2008) emphasizes the conjunction in its title. Some 500 signed essays by 51 contributors address the interplay of women and the American political system through