New & Noteworthy List for March 2018

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The Library is continually adding new books to its collection. Below are the seven titles from our March 2018 New & Noteworthy list.

Check out and delivery of New & Noteworthy titles is available to legislative staff in Capitol and District offices. To arrange check out and delivery of any of these items, you can submit an online request through the New & Noteworthy page on our website, contact the library at 512-463-1252, or use our PDF request form.

1. Armed in America: A History of Gun Rights from Colonial Militias to Concealed Carry
By Patrick J. Charles
Explores how and why the "right to keep and bear arms" has evolved over the course of history. Examines the legal and historical development of gun rights from the United States' inception. Proposes that the gun rights narrative cumulatively combines constitutional, social, civil rights, political, and many other perspectives.
Prometheus Books, 2018. 315 pages.
344.7305 C38A 2018

2. The Polarizers: Postwar Architects of our Partisan Era
By Sam Rosenfeld
Explores the deliberate ideological sorting of the two major political parties since the mid-20th century into conservative and liberal groups. Highlights key figures in this realignment and considers pathways towards a new political dynamic.
University of Chicago Press, 2018. 399 pages.
324.273 R724P 2018

3. Out of Harm's Way: Creating an Effective Child Welfare System
By Richard J. Gelles
Explores the challenges of developing a child welfare system that balances the needs of children and parents, while equipping practitioners to make literal life and death decisions. Notes that while foster care is meant to be short-term, the current system incentivizes keeping children in out-of-home placements, then ejects aging-out youth who are unprepared. Calls for identifying the system's "centers of gravity" and then working at federal, local, and cultural levels to affect positive change.
Oxford University Press, 2017. 186 pages.
362.7068 G282O 2017

4. Sentencing Fragments: Penal Reform in America, 1975-2025
By Michael H. Tonry
Provides a historical overview of sentencing and punishment in the United States. Declares that current sentencing policies are unjust, arbitrary, and too severe. Argues earlier reforms not only led to incompatible and conflicting law but contributed to mass incarceration. Critiques current strategies for reducing incarceration rates and presents a set of proposals for legislative and institutional change.
Oxford University Press, 2016. 300 pages.
365.70973 T616S 2016

5. Freedom for the Thought that We Hate: A Biography of the First Amendment
By Anthony Lewis
Describes the creation of free speech rights in the United States Constitution in five distinct areas: political speech, artistic expression, libel, commercial speech, and forms of expression such as T-shirts and campaign spending. Provides a legal overview of the United States Supreme Court's main First Amendment cases of the 20th century.
Basic Books, 2007. 221 pages.
342.7308 L585F 2007

6. The Texas Railroad Commission: Understanding Regulation in America to the Mid-Twentieth Century
By William R. Childs
Presents the institutional history of the Texas Railroad Commission (TRC) to illuminate the rise of commission-style regulation in the United States. Examines the evolution of economic regulation from the perspective of Texas and through the lens of "pragmatic federalism," a cooperative approach involving the interplay of state and national regulators with industry leaders.
Texas A & M University Press, 2005. 323 pages.
338.2 C437T 2005