

## Tilburg University

### Review of the book Ethics in crime and justice, J.M. Pollock-Byrne, 1989, 0534097685

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POLLOCK-BYRNE, J.M., *Ethics in Crime and Justice. Dilemmas and Decisions*. Brooks/Cole Publishing Company, Pacific Grove, California, 1989, 169 p.

"Ethics in Crime and Justice. Dilemmas and Decisions" is a course text-book that explores the relation between ethics and the field of criminal justice and criminology. Rather than a contribution to the favorite philosophical problem of the relation between law and morality, the text is intended to be, in the author's own words, a work on applied and professional ethics. How individuals make decisions about right and wrong when confronted with difficult choice in the course of their professional activities is the topic that organizes the sequence and content of the book. To this effect, the principal methodological tool consists in the deployment of cases in which moral dilemmas require a decision. Participation in the ensuing discussions not only illustrates the material introduced in the respective text section, but aims at leading the participants to an increased awareness of their own value systems and the rationales they employ for decision-making. In its substantive aspect, the text dedicates three initial chapters to providing an elementary introduction to key moral concepts, with special emphasis on moral behaviour, ethical systems, psychological theories of moral development, and justice. This general discussion is then brought to bear on criminal justice, discussing, successively, the areas of police ethics, court and professional ethics, and the ethical frameworks for punishment and correction. The text ends with a synopsis of an ethical decision-making process that, drawing on diverse models (Rawls, Nash, Krogstand & Robertson), highlights (a) the examination of all possible solutions to, and implications of, an ethical problem, (b) submitting the solutions to a publicity test, and (c) reconciliation of the decision with the decision-maker's personal set of values or ethical system.

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