How Market-Driven News Promoted the Punitiveness Revolution: The News Media’s Influence on Criminal Justice Policy (Program)

Sara Sun Beale

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The Wythe Lecture

The George Wythe Lecture Series, begun in 1976, is named in honor of the occupant of the first Chair of Law at the College of William & Mary and in the United States. George Wythe was not only the law teacher of distinguished patriots – Jefferson and Marshall among them – but also one of the most distinguished lawyers, statesmen, and judges of the late colonial and early national periods.
Sara Sun Beale teaches first year criminal law and upper class courses in criminal justice policy and federal criminal law. Her principal academic interests are in the areas of the grand jury and in the federal government's role in the criminal justice system. She is the co-author of Federal Criminal Law and Related Actions: Crimes, Forfeiture, the False Claims Act and RICO (1998), Grand Jury Law and Practice (1986 & 2d ed. 1997), and Federal Criminal Law and Its Enforcement (2d ed. 1993 & 3d ed. 2000) (with Norman Abrams). One of Professor Beale’s current research interests is an examination of the factors that shape public attitudes regarding crime and how those attitudes ultimately translate into legislative changes in criminal laws and procedures.

Professor Beale has been active in law reform efforts related to the federal government's role in criminal justice matters. In 2004, Chief Justice Rehnquist appointed her to serve as the Reporter for the Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules, which drafts the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. She previously served as an associate reporter for the Workload Subcommittee of the Federal Courts Study Committee (where much of her work focused on the Sentencing Guidelines) and as the reporter for a three branch federal-state working group convened by Attorney General Janet Reno to consider the principles that should govern the federalization of criminal law. Professor Beale also served as a member of an American Bar Association task force studying the federalization of criminal law. She has argued before the Supreme Court on six occasions, representing the United States and as appointed counsel for an indigent defendant.

Professor Beale received her B.A. degree in English and her J.D. degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Michigan. She clerked for Judge Wade H. McCree Jr. on the Sixth Circuit, and served in the Office of Legal Counsel and the Office of the Solicitor General in the U.S. Department of Justice before joining Duke in 1979.
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THE 2005/06
GEORGE WYTHE LECTURE

How Market-Driven News Promoted the Punitiveness Revolution:
The News Media’s Influence on Criminal Justice Policy

SARA SUN BEALE
CHARLES L.B. LOWNDES PROFESSOR OF LAW

Tuesday, February 28
3:30 p.m.
Room 127
Law School
The Wythe Lecture

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