



Sentencing in Australia

Mirko Bagaric, Theo Alexander, and Richard Edney, (10th edn), Thomson Reuters (Professional) Australia Limited, 2022, pb \$195

Now in its tenth edition, *Sentencing in Australia* provides a welcome update to this difficult and complex area of law. It is applicable to all state, territory and federal jurisdictions and includes updated content relating to the objectives of sentencing, aggravating and mitigating factors, the principle of proportionality and criminal sanctions. It includes analysis of key appellate and High Court sentencing judgments. Sentencing law plays a role in the daily work of every criminal lawyer. For defence practitioners, the weight of responsibility in the plea and sentencing process cannot be underestimated. For prosecutors, the criminal law reposes in them responsibility in ensuring the proper application of principle. Unfortunately, although the times are changing, sentencing law was never a traditional inclusion in university legal studies leaving many criminal lawyers to learn on the job. Therefore, this book must play two roles: as an academic treatise (and critique) on the principles and operation of sentencing law and, importantly, as a practical companion for criminal law practitioners. In this context, the excellence of this text is revealed. One practitioner might start in the sections about foundational principles like general deterrence or rehabilitation, or dive directly into chapters about sentencing for specific categories of offending. Another might look at chapters on sentencing appeals and analyse case law about manifest excess or inadequacy.

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