

Comparative Analysis for: BASIC CRIMINAL LAW  
 Client: Prentice-Hall CHET  
 Client Author: Davenport  
 Client Title: Basic Criminal Law  
 Completed By: Craig Beytien

Target Titles

Author	Title	Edition	CR Year	Publisher
Hall	Criminal Law and Procedure	4	2004	Delmar
Bevans	Criminal Law & Procedure for the Paralegal	1	2003	Delmar
McCord	Criminal Law & Procedure for the Paralegal: A Systems Approach	3	2006	Delmar

The following analysis is designed to provide insight into how the current outline compares to a cross-section of key competitors. This is not to suggest that the authors should endeavor to make their book look and feel like all the rest – rather the comparison provides a benchmark for assessing core coverage in the developing manuscript. We want the book to be distinctive – however, failure to demonstrate satisfactory topical coverage may significantly lessen potential market acceptance.

Issue #1 – General organization

- The Davenport book is comparable with its identified competitors. The biggest difference is the rather large emphasis on the historical framework for the development of criminal law found in chapter two and three. None of the three competitors go to the extent Davenport does on the historical information. A comparative review would be needed to validate whether two history chapters were overkill.
- The Davenport book is the shortest of the four books – nearly half the length of the Hall and McCord textbooks. At this point, I’m hesitant to characterize this as a liability. The results from the Market Opportunity Analysis (MOA) will provide a context to test that reality.
- Davenport uses a rather unique construct with chapters 4. Constitutional Rights Before Arrest, and 5. Constitutional Right After Arrest, that is not found in any of the other three competitors, who break many of the major topics covered here into

multiple chapters. This makes direct comparison difficult. Again, until we get user and non-user feedback, I'd stop short at labeling this either a positive or negative.

- Davenport does separate a rather unique chapter covering treason, terrorism, and wartime crimes (ch. 11). This seems to me rather timely given the news trends. The competitors do treat these topics, just not to the same degree and disbursed among other chapters.
- End of chapter key terms are nice, but should also be placed in a book glossary at the end of the book.

#### Issue #2 – Sequencing

- No clear, consistent sequencing reflected across the competition. All three competitors cover sentencing and appeals latter than Davenport. This is a function of Davenport's unique construct of chapters 4 , 5, 6 and 7.
- Davenport is the only book to split murder and violent crimes into two chapters.

#### Issue #3 – Labeling

- Both McCord and Bevans have chosen to include “paralegal” in their titles. Hall does not include the term, as does Davenport. This is ultimately a marketing issue. If there is evidence that Davenport is cross-selling in CJ programs, maintaining a more generic stance is advisable. The only book that directly addresses the paralegal (in content) is McCord, in that he includes a brief “role of the paralegal” in his second chapter and briefly in 11, 12 and 13 – otherwise the content could work for any criminal law survey course.
- One concern is some faculty performing a very brief review of the TOC for Davenport and not seeing what for some might be obvious labels. “Search and Seizure” is an example. This concerns those who flip quickly through a book for reasons to exclude it from consideration.
- Does the chapter title, “Constitutional Rights Post-Conviction” sufficiently describe what in fact is covered in the chapter?

## Key (core) Topic Coverage Analysis

The list below does not represent an exhaustive list of all critical topics associated with the criminal law course rather it reflects the larger blocks of content among the books being compared. The numbers are not a description of full pages, only the number of pages indicated for such coverage in the index from each. The purpose here is to not suggest that all topics indicated should be covered at the same level but simply to indicate where there are differences among the book in many topic areas. The question here is whether Davenport has sufficient coverage of the broader topics. "0" denotes that there was no evidence that coverage existed in the index. The McCord numbers are based on a detailed TOC, not the index

Key Topics	Davenport	Bevans	Hall	McCord
Actus Reus	0	2	6	4
Appeals	3	5	3	3
Arraignment	1	4	2	2
Arrest Warrants/Search Warrants	7	10	8	3
Arresting	2	2	10	4
Arson	2	2	2	3
Assault	4	5	4	11
Attempt	0	1	4	3
Attorney-Client Privilege	4	1	0	0
Burglary	3	3	3	4
Child Molestation	2	2	1	0
Common Law	2	3	7	0
Confessions	0	2	1	14
Conspiracy	1	5	4	0
Constitutional & Statutory Defenses	6	3	20	8
Crimes against public	19	3	3	7

order				
Crimes against the Court	18	4	7	4
Criminal Law Defined	3	2	5	4
Death Penalty	6	2	2 sidebars	1
Defenses	15	10	20	30
Discovery	0	5	6	3
Drug Crimes	2	3	7	4
DUI	3	2	3	0
Embezzlement	2	1	7	1
Evidence	2	12	7	3
Examination	0	14	0	8
Extortion	0	0	5	1
False Imprisonment	0	1	1	2
Federal & State Court System	7	4	9	2
Forgery	2	2	4	1
Fraud	0	13	3 (checks)	1
Grand Jury	3	6	6	3
Habeas Corpus	3	2	4	3
Homicide	4	8	20	13
Indictment	1	2	5	2
Insanity	1	3	7	6
Interrogation	0	2	4	4
Jury Selection	4	7	1	0
Kidnapping	3	3	5	2
Mayhem	0	1	1	0
Mens Rea	0	2	15	4
Miranda	7	3	11	2
Parole	0	2	2	1
Participants in CJ	0	4	12	0

## Content Connections

System				
Plea Bargaining	2	5	2	3
Preliminary Hearing	1	6	4	3
Presumed Innocence	0	2	1	0
Pre-trial Motions	0	3	3	3
Probable Cause	3	2	11	4
Probation	0	2	5	1
Punishment	2	2	29	12
Rape	3	7	2	11
Right to Attorney	4	1	4	1
Right to Jury Trial	2	2	2	2
Right to Public Trial	3	2	1	2
Robbery	4	2	5	3
Search Warrants	5	10	15	8
Sentencing	2	4	41	10
Solicitation	0	1	2	0
Stalking	0	1	2	1
Suicide	2	1	3	0
Theft	3	5	19	2
Victim-Witness Program	0	1	2	0