Handbook on the Economics of Crime

Edited by

Bruce L. Benson
Devoe Moore and Distinguished Research Professor of Economics, Economics Department Chair and Courtesy Professor of Law, Florida State University, USA

Paul R. Zimmerman
Economist in Antitrust I, United States Federal Trade Commission, USA

Edward Elgar
Cheltenham, UK • Northampton, MA, USA
Contents

List of contributors vii
Preface: background and overview by Bruce L. Benson and Paul R. Zimmerman ix
Acknowledgments xv

PART I THEORETICAL AND EMPIRICAL DEVELOPMENTS: BECKER, EHRlich AND BEYOND

1 The market model of crime: a short review and new directions 3
   Isaac Ehrlich
2 Estimating the supply of crime: recent advances 24
   Helen Tauchen
3 The measure of vice and sin: a review of the uses, limitations and implications of crime data 53
   Alexander Tabarrok, Paul Heaton and Eric Helland
4 Dynamic perspectives on crime 82
   Justin McCrary

PART II ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLIC PRODUCTION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

5 The historical development of public policing, prosecution and punishment 109
   Nicholas A. Curott and Edward Peter Stringham
6 Police, prisons, and punishment: the empirical evidence on crime deterrence 127
   Jonathan Klick and Alexander Tabarrok
7 Prison population and crime 145
   Thomas B. Marvell
8 The allocation of police 184
   Bruce L. Benson
9 The economic analysis of corruption 218
   Fred S. McChesney
10 Economics of crime and drugs: prohibition and public policies for illicit drug control 249
   Edward M. Shepard and Paul R. Blackley

PART III CRIME AND THE ECONOMY

11 The economic costs of criminal activity: a discussion of methodological approaches and empirical estimates 279
   Allen K. Lynch
Contents

12 Crime and housing prices 303
   Keith Ihlanfeldt and Tom Mayock

13 Corruption, crime and economic growth 328
   Benjamin Powell, G.P. Manish and Malavika Nair

14 Labor markets and crime: new evidence on an old puzzle 342
   David B. Mustard

15 Private policing: experiences, evaluation and future direction 359
   Erwin A. Blackstone and Simon Hakim

PART IV CONTROVERSIES AND DEBATES IN THE ECONOMICS-OF-CRIME LITERATURE

16 The economics of capital punishment and deterrence 381
   Paul R. Zimmerman

17 Firearms and homicide 432
   Carlisle E. Moody

18 Abortion and crime: a review 452
   Ted Joyce

19 Casinos and crime in the USA 488
   Douglas M. Walker

20 Conclusion 518
   Bruce L. Benson and Paul R. Zimmerman

Index 523