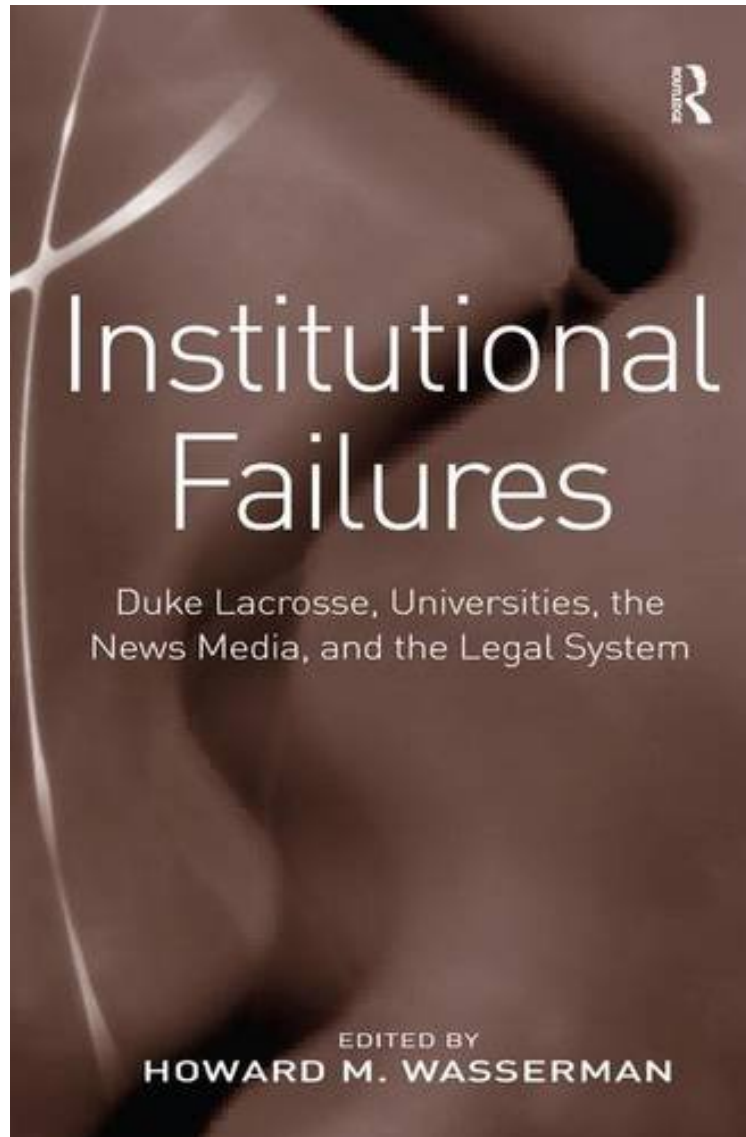


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Institutional Failures: Duke Lacrosse, Universities, the News Media, and the Legal System

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From Routledge : Institutional Failures: Duke Lacrosse, Universities, the News Media, and the Legal System before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Institutional Failures: Duke Lacrosse, Universities, the News Media, and the Legal System:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An excellent lineup of contributors By R. Parrish These authors have the background to be able to write knowledgeably about their subjects, and to shed light on how a case in which the

alleged perpetrators had been proven innocent by DNA tests two weeks before the first arrests, could nevertheless have been prosecuted for a further year, in spite of continuing evidence of innocence. Contents: Overview: An institutional perspective on the Duke lacrosse case, Howard M. Wasserman; Part 1 The Legal System: When good prosecutors go bad: from prosecutorial discretion to prosecutorial misconduct, Angela J. Davis; Duke lacrosse, prosecutorial misconduct, and the limits of the civil justice system, Sam Kamin. Part 2 Duke University and American Higher Education: The perils of academic groupthink, K.C. Johnson; The Duke lacrosse saga: administration versus students and faculty, among others, Robert M. O'Neil; In the shadow of Duke: college sport and the academy divided, Ellen J. Staurowsky. Part 3 New Media: Justice delayed, Rachel Smolkin; Not just sloppy journalism, but a profound ethical failure: media coverage of the Duke lacrosse case, Jane E. Kirtley; Covering the notorious case: narrative and the need for sensationalism done well, Craig L. LaMay; Bibliography; Index.

The authors of this new collection argue that the many features of the now-infamous Duke University mens lacrosse controversy are best understood in the context of the three major socio-legal institutions in which the drama played out. The legal system, Duke University, and the news media all struggled to respond to and handle the case, tinged as the events were with race, sex, violence, class, privilege, and notions and perceptions about sports. The problems, missteps, mistakes, and injustice in the case resulted from each institution's failure to operate properly, from the incentives built into each institution that affected individual behavior, and from the inability of each institution to communicate and cooperate with the others. To understand the Duke lacrosse controversy is to study these institutions and to answer questions about the performance of each—to learn what each did right and wrong and why, and to consider how each can improve in the future. By examining the actions of these institutions and the individuals within them, these essays consider the role each played in the case, how each contributed to the crisis and to its resolution, the ways in which they interacted with one another, and the lessons this case teaches about the appropriate functioning of each institution.

'Anyone interested in sport and social justice issues simply must read *Institutional Failures*. The Duke case, now five years old, had many bad assumptions and twists and turns that confused the public for a long time. The book's diverse contributors give tremendous detail, put the story in the context of the sport, and include various perspectives that will help readers reach their own conclusions.' Richard Lapchick, University of Central Florida, USA 'This is an important book exploring the disaster that was the Duke lacrosse case. Initially a story about an alleged crime with overtones of race, class, and privilege, it became one about a District Attorney indifferent to justice. It fundamentally shook our faith in those institutions responsible for protecting us. This book provides important insights to assure that this does not happen again.' Thomas B. Metzloff, Duke University School of Law, USA About the Author Howard M. Wasserman is an Associate Professor of Law at the Florida International University College of Law, where he has written and taught extensively on civil rights and constitutional litigation, the First Amendment, and sports law.