

Pasko participates in centennial celebration

Professor Lisa Pasko was invited to participate in the Northwestern University School of Law centennial celebration of the *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*. The *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* remains one of the most widely read and widely cited publications in the world. It is the only journal to combine both criminal law and criminology, as it strives to publish intellectually inspiring scholarship and debate that can lead to the advancement of legal reform.

Exploring the development of the criminal justice system over the past 100 years, the centennial symposium participants addressed a wide variety of significant criminal justice issues, such as race and crime, sentencing dilemmas, the movement toward mass incarceration, and debates surrounding capital punishment. With roughly 150 people in attendance, the presenters discussed how laws, courts, and corrections have changed over the century, as societal norms and expectations have also changed. Moreover, the participants revealed trends, failures and predicaments that are continuously problematic to our system of justice. They showed that despite some improvement and innovation in criminal justice over the last century, the overall result has been harmful: At tremendous social and economic cost, more Americans are enmeshed in the criminal justice system today than ever before or ever imagined, and yet crime rates have not dramatically dropped

Presenting along with notable legal scholars and criminologists, such as Robert Crutchfield, Paul Butler, Frank Zimring, Ray Paternoster, and Joanne Belknap, Professor Pasko discussed her paper, "Damaged Daughters: The History of Girls' Sexuality and the Juvenile Justice System." In her presentation, Professor Pasko demonstrated how throughout transformations and legal changes in the juvenile justice system, the character and constitution of the female juvenile offender population changed very little, with girls infrequently charged with serious law violations and commonly judged in terms of their moral welfare and sexual behavior. For example, in the early eras, courts and corrections noted damaged moral character and various environmental causes for girls' sexually immoral behavior: bad families, alcohol or drug use, poverty, immigrant status, and the lure of the military man. Despite these external factors, girls were made to be responsible for their own choices and occasionally their own victimization. In the modern era, Professor Pasko noted a shift from the moral domain to medical authority—a shift from a damaged moral core to a damaged psychology—one that few practitioners felt could be repaired. Like the early era, girls are still told to take responsibility for their decisions, as the context of such decisions and the traumatic backgrounds of girls' lives remain recorded but rarely used as mitigation.

Professor Pasko's paper was subsequently published in the Journal's 100th volume and can be found at: <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/jclc/symposium/> or http://www.law.northwestern.edu/jclc/backissues/v100/n3/1003_1099.Pasko.pdf).