AN UNDERSTANDING OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE is fundamental to any lawyer's education. At the University of Virginia, the nation's leading criminal law faculty offer an in-depth array of courses on both the substantive criteria of guilt or innocence and the procedures used in the arrest, prosecution and punishment of offenders. On topics ranging from the police's use of force to the consequences of plea bargaining, Virginia's faculty are looking at the criminal justice system with fresh eyes and considering how to make a more just society.

PROFESSOR DARRYL BROWN, a former public defender, is the author of "Free Market Criminal Justice: How Democracy and Laissez Faire Undermine the Rule of Law," which focuses on how the U.S. criminal justice system is marked by faith in free markets and the political process.

A former U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT prosecutor focusing on hate crimes and official misconduct, PROFESSOR RACHEL HARMON's work examines policing and its regulation. Her scholarship has appeared in the New York University, Michigan and Stanford law reviews, among others.

PROFESSOR KIMBERLY KESSLER FERZAN's work focuses on criminal law theory. She is the co-editor-in-chief of Law and Philosophy and the co-author of "Crime and Culpability: A Theory of Criminal Law."

THE LAW SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTS ITS CURRICULUM with a wide range of extracurricular activities dedicated to criminal law, including a journal devoted to criminal law and an active innocence group.

VIRGINIA STUDENTS DO NOT STUDY CRIMINAL LAW ONLY FROM A DISTANCE. They also enroll in clinics that offer hands-on involvement in juvenile justice, criminal prosecution or defense, and innocence cases.

COLLECTIVELY, THESE EXPERIENCES LEAD VIRGINIA GRADUATES to coveted positions in the U.S. Department of Justice Honors Program, in U.S. attorneys' offices, and in district attorney and defense offices across the country.
This new project researches—and encourages the adoption of—policies aimed at improving the fairness of criminal adjudication, preventing wrongful convictions, reducing recidivism and costs, diverting low-risk offenders from jail or prison, and easing societal re-entry for the formerly incarcerated.

Through a related seminar, students research and write papers on such issues as improving interrogation policies, the use of mental health docket in criminal adjudication, and bail and discovery reform.

This pro bono student organization educates the Law School community about domestic violence and monitors domestic violence—related criminal justice proceedings in local jurisdictions. The project assists the commonwealth's attorney offices of Charlottesville and of Albemarle County in their prosecution of these cases by interviewing victims of domestic violence.

Students assist clinic attorneys in evaluating claims of innocence by prisoners in Virginia and assessing the appropriate avenues of legal relief available.

This student organization sponsors speaking events, pro bono experiences and educational opportunities on correctional practices and policy.