

"An invaluable and timely gift, this book should serve as a new guide for the justice reform movement in the next chapter of a long struggle."

—JEREMY TRAVIS, President Emeritus, John Jay College

"A critical look behind the scenes at the way 'criminal justice reform' has blossomed into not just a movement but also, at times, an industry. Eren's book is vital to our understanding of how change happens—and doesn't."

—BAZ DREISINGER, author, *Incarceration Nations*

"*Reform Nation* captures the political and social dynamics of recent years and lays out a compelling set of issues and challenges for the reform movement moving forward."

—MARC MAUER, The Sentencing Project

In late 2018, the First Step Act was signed into law by President Donald Trump hours before a government shutdown. It was one of few pieces of federal criminal justice reform since the 1970s to move toward reversing the incarceration frenzy that had characterized United States policy. While it did not amount to revolutionary reform, in *Reform Nation*, Colleen P. Eren investigates it as a symbol for the larger movement's trajectory; its unlikely passage testament to the power of a new constellation of advocates, stakeholders, and "strange bedfellow" alliances.

These complex dynamics are indicative of a twenty-year shift in which the movement became nationalized and mainstreamed. Using interviews with major players in the national movement, formerly incarcerated activists, celebrities, and philanthropists, this is the first book to turn the mirror back on the criminal justice reform movement. This snapshot in time raises much larger questions about how our democratic processes inform criminal justice policy, and where we are going in the decades to come.

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