



abduction the unlawful taking of a person by force, fraud, or persuasion. Abduction is similar to *kidnapping* except that no demand for *ransom* is involved. An example of abduction is when a parent who does not have legal custody takes their child and hides the child's location from the custodial parent.

abet to encourage or assist an *offender* in the commission of a crime. See *aiding and abetting*.

abeyance the state of a criminal sentence when it is suspended. When legal consequences are held in abeyance, the convicted *offender* generally must abide by certain conditions.

abolitionism the movement to abolish the *death penalty* as a form of punishment. Abolitionism gained momentum in the late 20th century with the advent of *DNA testing* and its ability to exonerate the wrongfully convicted, including those awaiting execution. Abolitionists are particularly visible and vocal around the time of executions, often demonstrating outside a *prison* where an *execution* is about to take place. See *Bedau, Hugo Adam, Death Penalty Information Center, Innocence Project*.

aboriginal courts courts that hear and adjudicate cases involving *aboriginal crime*.

aboriginal crime crime committed by aboriginal or native persons, such as aboriginal tribes in Australia and New Zealand. See *indigenous crime*.

abortion the premature termination of a pregnancy. Criminal abortion is the act of intentionally producing a miscarriage or termination of pregnancy by any illegal means. Abortion became legal in the United States with the 1973 Supreme Court ruling in *Roe v. Wade*. Abortion remains a divisive issue, spawning periodic acts of violence by right-to-life extremists, including *premeditated murder* against abortionists and violence against abortion clinics.

abrasion collar a round hole with blackened margins made when a bullet pierces the skin. Abrasion collars tell investigators not only that the wound

was made by a firearm, but may also reveal the caliber, the distance between the shooter and victim, and other noteworthy forensic details. See *entrance wound, stellate, tattooing*.

ABSCAM short for Arab Scam. ABSCAM was a scandal occurring from 1978 to 1980 where United States government officials were caught on tape accepting bribes from *Federal Bureau of Investigation* agents posing as representatives of Arab sheiks. The officials, which included members of the U.S. Congress, were convicted on a variety of charges. It was disconcerting to many that these public officials were so easily bribed. See *bribe, political crime*.

abscond to secretly depart or flee a specific jurisdiction, especially one having legal control over an *offender*.

absolve to release a person from any penalties, obligations, or consequences arising from a criminal act.

Abt Associates a research and consulting firm based in Cambridge, Massachusetts which was founded by Dr. Clark Abt in 1965. Abt Associates uses research to address a variety of social problems and to manage projects related to criminal justice.

Abu Ghraib a post-911 military correctional facility in Iraq where U.S. military personnel abused, humiliated, and photographed enemy prisoners of war. Several of the perpetrators involved were punished. See *human rights violations, khaki-collar crime*.

abuse to injure physically, emotionally, or verbally. Abuse is also the result of such injury. See *child abuse, elder abuse, spousal abuse*.

abuse excuse term used to describe the justification that an offender's past abuse is responsible for the criminal conduct in question. The abuse excuse is used by some offenders and their attorneys as a *mitigating circumstance* of the alleged offense. Critics argue that the abuse excuse is used to shirk *offender* responsibility for wrongdoing. See *neutralization techniques*.

abuse of a corpse the criminal misuse of a dead body. This offense can take many forms, from the improper handling, storage, or molestation of the deceased by funeral home personnel to acts of *necrophilia* or *necrophagia* by serial killers and other offenders.

abusive home a home where abuse occurs. The abuse can be physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, or verbal in nature; the victim of the abuse can be a person of any age. Abusive homes can pose a threat not only to the children who live there, but also to successive generations of offspring indirectly affected by the abuse. See *child abuse, elder abuse*.

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) an international membership organization that promotes professional and scholarly work in criminal

justice. Established in 1963, the ACJS publishes two journals, *Justice Quarterly* and the *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*. ACJS holds its annual meetings in March of each year. The ACJS is headquartered in Greenbelt, Maryland.

Academy of Experimental Criminology (AEC) a scholarly body founded in 1998 to recognize selected scholars for their outstanding achievements in randomized controlled field experiments in criminology and criminal justice. The AEC is affiliated with the Division of Experimental Criminology of the *American Society of Criminology*.

Academy Group, Inc. a private forensic behavioral consulting firm composed of former members of the FBI's *Behavioral Analysis Unit* and other agencies who offer professional consultation and training services related to aberrant and violent behaviors. The Academy Group is headquartered in Manassas, Virginia. See *criminal investigative analysis, profiling*.

accessory a person who may not be directly involved in the commission of a crime, but assists the offender. See *accessory after the fact, accessory before the fact, complicity*.

accessory after the fact a person serving as *accessory* after the actual commission of the crime. Compare with *accessory before the fact*.

accessory before the fact a person serving as *accessory* prior to the actual commission of a crime. An example of an accessory before the fact is someone who lent assistance to an *offender* prior to the actual event without actually participating in the crime itself. Compare with *accessory after the fact*.

accidental killing the unintentional taking of another's life. See *involuntary manslaughter*.

accomplice a person who knowingly and willingly assists another person or persons in the commission or concealment of a criminal act. See *aiding and abetting*. Compare with *codefendant*.

accusation an *allegation* that a person has committed a crime. An accusation can be made without the initiation of formal charges.

accused a person or persons charged in a court of law with a crime, offense, wrongdoing, or fault. Compare with *defendant, person of interest, suspect*.

accuser one who brings an *accusation* against another. Often the accuser is the *victim*.

acquaintance rape the *rape* of an individual by someone known to that person. The majority of sexual assaults against girls and unmarried women are by someone they know. Compare with *date rape, intimate partner violence*.

acquit to find a *defendant* not guilty by *jury*, *judge*, or panel of judges.

acquittal the outcome of a criminal case when the *defendant* is set free from the charge of an offense by verdict of a *jury*, *judge*, sentence of a court, or other legal process.

actus reus a Latin term that literally means a wrong deed. Actus reus is an act, which when combined with *intent*, constitutes a *crime*. See *mens rea*.

Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act a federal law enacted in 2006 which defines three tiers of sex offenders and requires them to comply with lifetime registration requirements; failure to do so is a felony. See *Walsh, Adam, Walsh, John, sex offender, sex offender registration*.

ad curiam a Latin term meaning before a court or to a court.

Add Health abbreviation for the *National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health*.

addiction a dependence on drugs, alcohol, or a certain habit. Addiction is composed of physiological dependence and/or psychological dependence.

ADHD abbreviation for *Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder*.

adipocere a fatty soap-like substance that can form when human or animal bodies decompose in moist, oxygen-deprived environments. Also referred to as grave wax and corpse fat.

adjudication the process of disposing of a juvenile or criminal matter; the determination, decision, or sentence, especially without imputation of guilt. Compare with *disposition*.

adjudicatory hearing a formal court hearing at which a youth's case in *juvenile court* is disposed. At the adjudicatory hearing, the youth generally is placed on *probation* or, in cases of violent or otherwise serious delinquency, is sentenced to confinement in a correctional institution for youths.

Administrative Office of the United States Courts a federal office created in 1939 that supports the federal judiciary in the United States through a variety of services.

admissibility the status of a statement or evidence that permits it to be allowed or conceded in criminal proceedings against an accused offender.

admissible anything entitled or worthy of being introduced in court. See *testimony* and *evidence*.

admonish to judicially warn or disapprove. Judges and magistrates sometimes admonish those before the court for behavior which is disrespectful or otherwise unacceptable.

Adonis, Joseph (1902–1971) a New York *mobster* considered by many to be instrumental in the evolution of American *organized crime*. See *Mafia*.

adult generally an individual who has reached his or her eighteenth birthday. With respect to criminal responsibility and consequences, adults are subject to harsher penalties than their juvenile counterparts. Compare with *juvenile*.

adult bookstore a business that sells *pornography* and sometimes sexual aids intended for use by adults. See *community standards, First Amendment*.

adulterated specimen a urine specimen submitted for *drug testing* which has been tampered with through the introduction of other substances. Compare with *dirty urine*.

adulteration the intentional or unintentional modification of *evidence* so as to render it useless for prosecution purposes. An example of adulteration includes the inadvertent contamination of evidence at crime scenes or problems with the subsequent handling of evidence.

adultery the act of a married person willfully engaging in sexual relations with someone other than the person's spouse. Although adultery was once punishable by death in many cultures and remains a crime in some jurisdictions, it has gained a certain degree of social acceptance.

adversarial justice the system of justice in which there are two opposing parties. Western criminal justice processes are based on an adversarial system where the prosecution and defense oppose one another.

adversary the opposing party in a legal dispute. Example: a *prosecutor* is an adversary to a *defense attorney*.

affective violence violence that is the result of highly charged emotions. An example of affective violence is where an individual, after a period of excessive drinking, reacts violently to an insult from another.

affidavit a voluntary sworn written statement of facts made especially under oath or on affirmation before an authorized magistrate or officer.

affirm the act of validating an earlier decision or ruling. When an appellate court affirms a decision by a lower court, the earlier decision stands.

affirmative defense an acceptable rebuttal to a legal proscription (an imposed restraint or restriction) against a certain type of behavior. For example, in many jurisdictions, an affirmative defense to the charge of *carrying a concealed weapon* is that the accused is a business person who regularly transports large sums of money, and thus needs to carry a weapon for self-protection. An affirmative defense does not keep a person from

being charged with a crime; however, if used successfully, it can result in dismissal of the charges.

affray a fight between two or more persons in a public place causing a disturbance to others. See *disorderly conduct*.

AFIS abbreviation for *Automated Fingerprint Identification System*.

aftercare a period of supervised control of a releasee from a juvenile correctional facility. Aftercare is an opportunity to ensure compliance with special conditions, such as treatment or *restitution* and to receive counseling and other necessary social services. Compare with *parole*.

aftercare worker a worker who provides *aftercare* services.

agent provocateur a spy, or one employed to associate with suspected persons, often to infiltrate an organization for the purpose of collecting intelligence and to pretend sympathy with their aims in order to incite them to some incriminating action. See *espionage*.

aggravated assault a *physical assault* where serious bodily injury occurs or where a weapon capable of inflicting such injury is used.

aggravating circumstance a circumstance surrounding a crime that serves to increase its seriousness and the severity of the penalty. An example of an aggravating circumstance is the use of a firearm in the commission of a robbery. Compare with *mitigating circumstance*.

aggression hostile action that is potentially injurious to another. Aggression can be proactive or reactive.

agricultural crime a *crime* unique to agricultural regions and settings. Examples of agricultural crimes include the theft of livestock and illegal dumping. See *rural criminology*.

aiding and abetting to willingly and deliberately assist another in the commission of a crime. See *accomplice*.

aid panel primarily used in New South Wales, a group consisting of a *police officer*, a *solicitor*, community members, and young persons who work with the court to identify opportunities for youthful offenders.

air piracy the illegal commandeering of an aircraft by force or threat of force. Also, informally known as skyjacking. An example of air piracy is the September 11, 2001 takeover of commercial jets that were later crashed into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon. See *Attack on America*, *hijacking*, *piracy*.

AK-47 originally called Automat Kalishnikov, a Soviet-made, fully automatic *assault rifle* and one of the most widely used weapons in the world.

AK-47s are frequently mentioned in discussions of banning assault weapons. An AK-47 was used in the *mass murder* of school children in Stockton, CA in 1989. See *automatic weapon*.

alarm a device that gives off a sound or signal calling attention to some event or condition. It is often intended to alert the occupants of a building to some violation or intrusion. See *burglar alarm, car alarm*.

Alcatraz an island and site of the former federal *penitentiary* in San Francisco Bay. Alcatraz was made infamous by some of its inmates, including Al Capone, George “Machine Gun” Kelly, Alvin Karpis of Ma Barker’s gang, and Robert “The Birdman” Stroud. Alcatraz was used as a prison for difficult-to-manage offenders from 1934 to 1963. It was known as a prison from which escape was nearly impossible due to the strong currents and sharks in the Bay. From 1969 to 1971, Alcatraz was occupied by Native Americans who were trying to reclaim Indian land, as well as bring attention to the plight of the American Indian. Since 1973, Alcatraz has been a popular tourist attraction. See *federal prison*.

alcohol ethyl alcohol, the intoxicating substance found in beer, wine, liquor and other spirits. Alcohol has been linked in many ways to criminal behavior, including *victim-precipitated crime*.

alcohol and other drugs (AOD) an umbrella term used to represent the vast array of substances of abuse as well as the general field of those who specialize in the prevention and control of *substance abuse*, including alcoholism.

Alexis, Aaron (1979–2013) the civilian contractor who perpetrated the *Washington Navy Yard Shooting*. Alexis was killed by police.

Alford plea a plea, named for the court decision, *North Carolina v. Alford*, where the defendant neither admits guilt nor claims innocence, but admits that the prosecution can likely prove the charge. Compare with *no contest*.

alias a pseudonym assumed by a criminal for the purpose of avoiding detection or capture. Used especially in legal proceedings to connect the different names of anyone who has gone by or been known by two or more names.

alien one who is not a citizen or legal resident of a country. See *criminal alien, illegal alien, undocumented alien*.

allegation a written or verbal statement, often before a court, claiming that someone has committed a crime.

allege to make a formal claim that someone has committed a crime.

Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice a group of non-governmental organizations interested in criminal justice issues that consult with the United Nations.

allocation the right in common law of an individual to offer written or oral statements before a court. The right of allocation often is used as the legal basis for introducing *victim impact statements* and *private presentence investigation reports* in court.

All Points Bulletin (APB) a law enforcement announcement broadcast to authorities throughout a wide jurisdiction to be aware of an offender, missing person, or other law enforcement emergency. Compare with *Be on the Lookout (BOLO)*.

alpha a statistical concept in criminological research that represents the probability that a person will re-offend. Alpha has played a significant role in research on the deterrent effects of various legal punishments. See *deterrence*.

al Qaeda a Middle Eastern terrorist organization once headed by *Osama bin Laden*. It is believed that al Qaeda is responsible for a number of terrorist attacks against U.S. facilities, including the *Attack on America*. See *international terrorism, terrorism*.

al Shabaab a jihadist and *terrorist* organization based in Somalia that is affiliated with *al-Qaeda*. See *jihad*.

altercation a sometimes loud angry dispute between two or more people often escalating to a physical attack.

alternative dispute resolution (ADR) a set of methods as well as a movement to find ways of settling disputes outside traditional judicial processes. Alternative dispute resolution includes the prevention of disputes as well as their peaceful resolution.

amateur detective a lay person who engages in the activities of a *detective*. Some mystery novels feature amateur detectives. See *crime novel, mystery*.

AMBER alert an alert issued to the public by law enforcement that a child is missing and presumed kidnapped. Named for nine-year-old Amber Hagerman who was kidnapped and murdered in 1996, AMBER alerts have resulted in the successful rescue of children and the apprehension of their abductors.

ambush a surprise attack perpetrated by a person or persons unseen by the victim prior to the attack.

American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) a membership organization of physicians, criminalists, toxicologists, attorneys, document examiners, and others interested in forensic science. Headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado, the AAFS publishes the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* and holds its annual meetings every February.

American Bar Association (ABA) an American professional organization of more than 400,000 lawyers. Headquartered in Chicago, the ABA offers a variety of services, including law school accreditation, continuing legal education, and other programs designed to assist lawyers, judges, and other members of the legal profession. The ABA has standing committees on *gun violence* and *substance abuse*.

American Bar Foundation (ABF) the funding and research arm of the *American Bar Association*. The American Bar Foundation has sponsored and conducted a number of influential *socio-legal studies*. Staffed by full-time employees as well as a number of visiting fellows, the ABF maintains close working relationships and shares resources with Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. The ABF is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois.

American Board of Criminalistics (ABC) a forensic science board composed of regional and national organizations which establishes standards for certification of professionals in the field of *criminalistics*.

American Board of Forensic Odontology (ABFO) a professional organization whose objective is to establish and raise standards related to *forensic odontology*. The ABFO offers board certification to qualified professionals.

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) a national organization dedicated to preserving the rights of individuals. Criminal justice issues which have involved the ACLU include *police brutality*, *racial profiling*, and the state of indigent defense. The ACLU frequently takes legal action against organizations whose activities threaten to endanger basic rights.

American Correctional Association (ACA) a national organization of more than 20,000 correctional practitioners founded in 1870. The ACA, which holds an annual Congress of Corrections and a winter conference is headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia. Its publications include *Corrections Compendium*, *Corrections Today*, and *Correctional Health Today*.

American Jail Association (AJA) a national organization that supports people who operate and work in jails. The AJA, which is headquartered in Hagerstown, Maryland, publishes the magazine *American Jails*.

American Law Institute (ALI) an organization of lawyers and legal scholars whose purpose is to promote the clarification and simplification of the law and its adaptation to social needs. Established in 1923, the ALI has an elected membership of 3,000 lawyers, judges, and law professors. Among the accomplishment of the ALI is the development of the *Model Penal Code*. The ALI is headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) an international organization whose members work or have an interest in *parole*, *probation*,

and other forms of *community corrections*. The APPA is headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky.

American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) an international organization of security professionals. Headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, ASIS works to increase the effectiveness of security through educational programs and materials. It publishes the magazine *Security Management*.

American Society of Criminology (ASC) an organization formed in 1941 that supports and promotes criminology as a distinct professional field. The American Society of Criminology is concerned with the entire spectrum of the process of criminal justice, as well as scholarly inquiry leading to new theory and knowledge. Each November, the ASC holds its annual meetings for its members. The ASC publishes *Criminology: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, *Criminology & Public Policy*, and a newsletter, *The Criminologist* and is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio.

American Society of Victimology (ASV) a national organization for those who identify with the field of criminology. The ASV, which holds periodic symposia and colloquia, promotes evidence-based practice and education about *victimology*.

America's Most Wanted (AMW) a television program that ran from 1988 to 2012 whose mandate was to highlight wanted felons in hopes that the viewing audience could assist law enforcement in identification and apprehension. AMW, which was hosted by *John Walsh*, claimed that the program resulted in more than 1,000 captures.

amicus curiae Latin term meaning friend of the court. Also, a person with an interest in a matter before a court who files a brief in support of one of the parties.

amicus curiae brief a brief filed by an *amicus curiae* on behalf of one of the parties.

amido black a protein stain used by forensic scientists to enhance patterns and details in blood. See *bloodstain pattern analysis*.

ammunition a cartridge consisting of the projectile and its casing and propellant used in a firearm. Also referred to as ammo. See *ballistics*.

amnesia partial or total loss of memory, often arising as a result of trauma to the brain. Those accused of crimes have been known to claim amnesia as a defense; in some of these cases, the accused feigns amnesia.

amnesty the granting of a *pardon* by government to an individual or group.

Amnesty International an independent, non-political organization whose mission it is to protect *human rights* around the world. See *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

amphetamines any of several central nervous system stimulants. Active ingredients can include amphetamine, dextroamphetamine, or methamphetamine. Although some amphetamines have proper medical uses, such as medically supervised weight loss, they are also the drug of choice among many drug abusers. Street names include speed and uppers.

Anastasia, Albert (1902–1957) a powerful *organized crime* figure who once served as head of *Murder, Inc.* and later boss of the Gambino crime family. He was shot and killed in a barber shop in Manhattan. See *Mafia*.

anatomy murder murder specifically for the purpose of supplying cadavers for medical research and teaching.

angel of death a type of *serial killer*, often a nurse, medical technician, or other health professional who kills patients in their care. Some angels of death believe that they are relieving their victims of suffering by taking their lives. Infamous angels of death include *Donald Harvey* and *Michael Swango*.

anger management efforts or programs aimed at curbing negative, unhealthy human emotions and their expression in aggression and violence.

Angola the site of the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, Louisiana. In the past Angola made news because of its deplorable conditions. It is also the prison where executions take place in Louisiana.

animal abuse the gross neglect or cruelty to animals.

animus the Latin term for intention or motivation.

anomie a state of normlessness or lawlessness thought to be due in part to homogeneity in the population. See *anomie theory*, *Durkheim*, *Emile*, *strain theory*.

anomie theory a sociological theory, first articulated by French sociologist *Emile Durkheim* and later expanded on by sociologist *Robert K. Merton*, that posits that deviance occurs when there is an unequal emphasis in society on the ends people are expected to achieve and the means available to achieve them. Anomie theory is *structural* in that it attributes pathology, such as crime, to social forces rather than to individual pathologies. Later theoretical restatements include Richard Cloward and Lloyd Ohlin's book *Delinquency and Opportunity*. Compare with *General Strain Theory*, *strain theory*. See *Ohlin*, *Lloyd*.

anoxia the deprivation of oxygen to the body. Significant brain damage or death can result if the period of anoxia is prolonged. Cerebral anoxia is a common cause of death for a person who commits suicide by hanging.

antemortem a Latin term meaning occurring before death. This term is frequently used to describe wounds or other conditions that occurred before a person died. Compare with *postmortem*.

Anthony, Casey (1986–present) a young Florida woman who was accused of killing her two-year-old daughter Caylee. The case resulted in a sensational trial where Casey Anthony was acquitted of murder, but convicted on other charges. See *filicide*.

Anthrax case a criminal case in 2001 where anthrax spores were sent to selected individuals by mail, resulting in five deaths and the infection of 17 others. *Bruce Ivins* was considered by the FBI to be responsible for these crimes. See *bioterrorism*.

anthropometry the measurement of the human body and its constituent parts for the purpose of classification, identification, and analysis. See *forensic anthropology*.

Anti-Defamation League (ADL) a national organization committed to exposing and fighting anti-Semitism and other forms of hatred and bigotry, including white supremacy and *Holocaust* denial. The ADL, founded in 1913, maintains regional offices around the United States and international offices. See *hate crime*.

antidote any substance that counteracts the effects of a *poison* or other toxic substance. See *poisoning*.

antiquities theft the theft of valuable relics. Compare with *art theft*.

antisocial behavior behavior which does not conform to ordinary standards of decency or acceptability.

antisocial personality disorder a personality *disorder* characterized by superficial charm, lack of empathy, and a disregard for the rights of others. Antisocial personality disorder is described in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. Those suffering from antisocial personality disorder resist efforts at treatment. Compare with *psychopathy*, *sociopath*.

antitrust laws federal and state laws designed to prevent *price-fixing* and monopoly control.

Anttila, Inkeri (1916–2013) a Finnish law professor and *criminologist* who was heavily involved in the reform of the Finnish Penal Code and in making *criminology* relevant to criminal justice policy.

AOD abbreviation for *alcohol and other drugs (AOD)*.

Apalachin, NY the site of a 1957 meeting of *organized crime* figures from around the country. Law enforcement authorities raided the estate

where the meeting was being held, detaining the attendees and recording their license plate numbers. Apalachin served as evidence that there indeed was a *Mafia* and that its tentacles reached across the entire United States.

apartheid an official policy of racial segregation. See *racial justice*.

APB abbreviation for *All Points Bulletin*.

appeal a post-disposition legal process in a criminal or civil case in which one of the parties formally argues in writing to higher courts that substantial mistakes were made at the lower court level and requests a rehearing.

appeal bond a special bond that permits a convicted offender to remain free pending the outcome of an appeal. In the absence of an appeal bond, the offender begins serving the sentence imposed by the lower court.

appeals court a court higher than the court of original jurisdiction of a case where appeals are made and where appeals are decided. Also referred to as appellate court. There are twelve federal courts of appeal each covering a group of states called a "circuit." See *supreme court*.

appearance the presence of a criminal *defendant* in *court*.

appearance bond a *bond* to guarantee a defendant's appearance at future court hearings.

appellant the party that appeals to a higher court for a review of a lower court's decision. See *appeals court*. Compare with *appellee*.

appellee the party in an appeal that argues the correctness of the lower court's decision. See *appeals court*. Compare with *appellant*.

applied criminology the application of criminological theory and research to criminal justice policy and practice. Compare with *public criminology*, *theoretical criminology*, *translational criminology*.

appointed counsel a private attorney appointed by the court to represent an indigent client. Appointed counsel often is used in jurisdictions not having a public defender. There are those who believe the modest fees attorneys receive in such cases serve as a disincentive to the preparation of a strong defense. Compare with *public defender*.

apprehend to capture, arrest, and take into custody a *suspect* in a crime.

arbitration a dispute resolution where the two parties work to settle their disagreement through an arbiter and agree to abide by the final decision.

arch a segment of a human *fingerprint*. Compare with *loop*, *whorl*.

argot a special vocabulary or slang unique to a group of people. Groups having their own argot include prison inmates, street gangs, and those involved in the selling and using of drugs.

ARIMA acronym for auto regressive integrated moving averages, a statistical technique for forecasting trends in criminal justice data. ARIMA, which has been used to predict future crime rates and correctional populations, incorporates the lagged effects of variables on subsequent events. See *prison population forecast*.

Armed Career Criminal Act a federal law in the United States that provides severe sentences for offenders convicted more than twice of violent felonies or serious drug offenses.

armed robbery a robbery where a weapon is used or feigned by the *offender*. Armed robbery is one of the more serious felonies. It is also known as aggravated robbery, in which the use of a weapon, most often a firearm, is the *aggravating circumstance*.

aroma scan a process employed in *forensic science* for sensing and analyzing vapors, gases, and related aromas emanating from corpses, arson scenes, meth labs, and other sources.

Arpaio, Joe (1932–present) the *sheriff* of Maricopa County, Arizona whose controversial methods of dealing with offenders have included housing them in tents and putting them to work on chain gangs. See *chain gang*.

arraignment the first appearance in the court of jurisdiction. During an arraignment, the *defendant* typically enters an initial plea, the court ensures representation by counsel, and bond is set or continued. Compare with *initial appearance*.

arrest the taking into custody of a person by the police or other legal authorities with the intention of pressing criminal charges.

arrest clearance the official removal by police of an active case following the arrest of a suspect. Because arrest clearances are considered a measure of police effectiveness, there is an incentive to clear arrests by any means, including the admission by offenders who may have had nothing to do with the crime in question.

arrestee one who has been arrested. Compare with *defendant*, *detainee*, *suspect*.

Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) a national effort sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice to routinely collect data on drug use by those who are arrested and jailed. ADAM data show which drugs are being used by arrestees, and which drugs fall in and out of popularity. Trained

data collectors interview arrestees and collect specimens at the various ADAM sites. ADAM includes males and females and both adults and juveniles. See *Drug Use Forecasting (DUF)*.

arrest order a written order issued by a *parole officer* or *probation officer* to arrest a parolee or probationer for a new offense or a *technical violation*. Compare with *warrant*.

arrest practices the various means by which law enforcement officers effect arrests. Arrest practices can be controversial if they are thought to be abusive, discriminatory, or otherwise unfair or inappropriate. See *police brutality*, *racial profiling*.

arrest record a complete list of arrests for a given individual. Compare with *conviction record*.

arrest statistics data on the number and characteristics of people arrested for crimes. Compare with *offense statistics*.

arrest warrant a warrant issued by a judge giving law enforcement the authority to take a specific individual into custody.

arsenic a poisonous white powder used to commit murder and suicide. Arsenic is found in rat poison and certain herbicides. See *Swango, Michael*.

arson the malicious and unlawful burning of a building or other property. Arson includes the destruction of one's own property for *fraudulent insurance claims*. See *fire setting*, *serial arson*.

arson accelerant a substance like gasoline or lighter fluid used to accelerate the combustion of a fire. See *arson*.

arsonist an individual who commits *arson*. Compare with *fire setter*. See *serial arsonist*.

artificial fibers fibers that come from certain types of clothing, carpet, rope or other synthetic materials that may be of forensic interest. See *hairs and fibers*.

art theft the theft of fine art, such as paintings or sculptures. Compare with *antiquities theft*.

Aryan Brotherhood a white supremacist organization formed in San Quentin prison in 1967 to protect its members from Blacks and Hispanics inside the institution. Drug trafficking is a major source of income for the group. The Aryan Brotherhood has been responsible for numerous violent crimes, including murder.

Aryan Nations a group of neo-Nazi extremists that believe in the superiority of the white races and is dedicated to their preservation. See *Aryan Brotherhood*, *Ku Klux Klan*.

Asian Criminological Society a professional organization whose mission is to promote the study of criminology and criminal justice across the Asian continent. The Asian Criminological Society is headquartered in Macau, China.

asphyxia the deprivation of oxygen leading to unconsciousness, injury, or death. One way to die from asphyxia is by *suffocation*. See *anoxia*, *burking*.

asphyxiate to suffocate or cause unconsciousness as a result of interference of the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the body. See *burking*, *suffocation*.

assailant one who commits or is suspected of committing *assault*.

assassin one who plans, attempts, or carries out an *assassination*.

assassination the *premeditated murder* of a prominent person by surprise attack, often for political or religious reasons. Infamous 20th-century assassinations include those of President John F. Kennedy, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and former Beatle John Lennon. See *assassin*.

assault the unlawful threat or touching of another person with intent to do bodily harm. Assault is often confused with *battery*. Also referred to as simple assault. Compare with *aggravated assault*, *felonious assault*.

assault rifle an *assault weapon* of rifle length.

assault weapon an automatic or semiautomatic firearm, generally with a large capacity magazine, designed for firing a high volume of ammunition within a short period of time. An example of an assault weapon is the *AK-47*. There have been many legislative efforts to define assault weapons and to control their manufacture, distribution, ownership and possession.

assembly line justice a term used to convey justice processes so routinized that they compromise true justice. The notion of assembly line justice is reinforced by practices, such as the *plea bargain*, which in many courts occurs in the vast majority of cases.

asset-focused approach the identification and use of an offender's positive assets, such as family and community support, as opposed to focusing on risks and deficits. Compare with *risk-focused approach*.

asset forfeiture the legal requirement that certain accused or convicted offenders surrender real or other property believed to be obtained from their illegal activities. Asset forfeiture gained popularity in the 1980s with law enforcement agencies involved in the investigation of *drug trafficking*. Compare with *asset seizure*.

asset seizure the taking by the government of money, property, or other items gained illegally through criminal activity.

assisted suicide the taking of one's own life with the help of another, often a physician or other medical professional. Assisted suicide is illegal in most jurisdictions. See *Kevorkian, Jack*.

Association of Chinese Criminology and Criminal Justice a scholarly and professional organization whose purpose is to promote research and education on Chinese criminology and criminal justice.

asylum historically, a shelter, such as a church or temple, that offered protection from arrest or persecution. Also, the subject of a book *The Discovery of the Asylum*, by historian David Rothman where he traced the history of prisons and mental hospitals.

atavism a characteristic in an offender thought to be related to an earlier, more primitive form of being. For example, because a prominent brow was characteristic of Cro-Magnon man, a similar feature on an offender might prompt some to believe that criminality is linked to less evolved forms of Homo sapiens. Nineteenth century Italian criminal anthropologist *Cesare Lombroso* advanced the notion that certain types of offenders were throwbacks to an earlier form of evolutionary being, and therefore could be identified by certain physical characteristics. See *Kretschmer, Ernst*.

at-risk youth a youth who by personal, family, community, or cultural characteristics is deemed vulnerable to engaging in deviant or delinquent behavior, but who has not become involved in the *juvenile justice* system.

atrocities crimes particularly repugnant crimes, such as *genocide* and *war crimes*. See *human rights violations, International Criminal Court*.

attachment one of the four elements of Travis Hirschi's control theory of delinquency. Hirschi hypothesized that youths attached to their families and conventional values stand a greater chance of being insulated from delinquency. See also *belief, commitment, control theory, involvement*.

Attack on America term used by politicians, the media, and others to describe the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon as well as related terrorist plots against the United States. See *al Qaeda, international terrorism, bin Laden, Osama, terrorism*.

attempted crime a crime which has not been completed. Attempted crimes generally are punished slightly less severely than the corresponding *completed crime*.

attendance centre a place in the United Kingdom where youthful offenders regularly report as imposed by a court.

attention center same as *detention center*.

attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) a childhood disorder whose symptoms include difficulty staying focused, controlling behavior, and over-activity.

Attica the site of the Attica Correctional Facility in Attica, New York, that became a buzzword for prison reform after a bloody *prison riot* in September of 1971. Inmates who were protesting crowded living conditions and possible racial overtones in inconsistent sentences and parole decisions took over cell blocks for four days. The uprising ended when police stormed the facility and retook control with 10 correctional officers and civilian employees and 33 inmates dying and over 80 wounded in the process.

attorney-client privilege the long-standing tradition of confidentiality that exists between attorneys and those they represent. Attorney-client privilege theoretically prevents the disclosure of information a client divulges to an attorney.

attorney general the chief legal officer of the federal or state government. Attorneys general are appointed at the federal level, but are often elected at the state level. Their responsibilities include representing the government in legal proceedings.

Auburn system a system of prison discipline in the 19th century characterized by strict policies for the prisoners: segregation in cells at night, walking in lock step, maintaining silence, congregate work in shops during day, and dining seated back to back while communicating with hand signals. The Auburn system was first employed at the Western State Penitentiary in Pennsylvania.

audit trail a series of financial documents that when linked together can support fiscal responsibility and correlatively uncover embezzlement, fraud, or other types of financial misconduct or crime. Audit trails are important in the investigation of *organized crime* and *white-collar crime*, whose perpetrators often go to great lengths to hide their illegally gotten assets through tangled webs of complex financial transactions.

Augustus, John (1785–1859) a Boston cobbler generally regarded as the father of *probation*. Beginning in 1841, Augustus supervised alcoholics and youths under an agreement with the local court.

Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology (ANZSOC) the scholarly and professional organization to promote research and training in the field of criminology in Australia and New Zealand.

Australian Bureau of Statistics the governmental agency in Australia which promotes the collection of high-quality statistical data for decision making, including data related to crime and justice.

Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) the Australian government agency responsible for conducting and supporting criminological research. The AIC issues numerous publications of interest to researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners.

autoerotic fatality a fatality that results from the practice of *autoerotism*. Practitioners of autoerotism often use elaborate props and restraints to carry out their fantasies, most commonly with some type of hanging or neck compression to reduce the flow of oxygen into the body. Sexual gratification is achieved as the individual approaches unconsciousness. A self-rescue safety mechanism generally is incorporated into the practice, however in the case of fatalities, unconsciousness sets in before the escape method can be used. These deaths are often mistakenly deemed suicides or homicides by investigators unfamiliar with this phenomenon. In other cases, the true circumstances surrounding these deaths are kept from relatives to spare them emotional pain or public embarrassment.

autoeroticism self-arousal and sexual satisfaction by means of fantasy or genital stimulation. See *autoerotic fatality*.

Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) a system that permits the electronic collection, storage, retrieval, and comparison of human fingerprints. These systems read, match, and store fingerprints. While this does not entirely eliminate the need for manual examination of fingerprints, it speeds up the process by reducing possible matches. See *fingerprint*, *LiveScan*.

Automated Property System a system designed to permit law enforcement agencies to make use of information related to pawn brokers and second-hand dealers. See *fence*, *receiving stolen property*.

automatic weapon a firearm that fires continuously as long as the trigger is depressed, or until the ammunition is expended. Compare with *semi-automatic weapon*.

autopsy a postmortem examination of the internal and external parts of a body to determine or confirm the *cause of death* and *manner of death*. Same as *postmortem*.

autosadism the infliction of pain on one's self for sexual gratification. Compare with *sadism*, *self-injurious behavior*.

auto theft the theft of an unoccupied automobile, truck, or other similar vehicle. Auto theft is one of the major offense types which comprise the *Uniform Crime Reports Crime Index*. See *carjacking*, *unauthorized use of a motor vehicle*.

aversion therapy a form of psychodynamic intervention where the patient is subjected to unpleasant sensations (e.g., electric shock) in conjunction with an image to be extinguished. For example, pedophiles have been treated with aversion therapy by viewing pictures of children while receiving a mild electric shock, theoretically conditioning them to thereafter associate sex with children with pain. Also referred to as aversive conditioning.

avulsion the tearing away of a body part or tissue as a result of trauma or a surgical procedure. The examination of avulsions by medical personnel or forensic investigators often can point to the kind of weapon used in a violent crime. See *entrance wound*, *exit wound*.

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