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Criminal Law

Second edition

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Preface to the first edition

This book is intended as an introduction to the basic principles of criminal liability and some of the most important criminal offences. The offences have been chosen (from among the vast range of criminal offences) to illustrate clearly the principles underlying the criminal law; they also feature in most courses on substantive criminal law. There is a fundamental need for the law (and especially the criminal law) to be clear, and its content easily understood by the lay person, but first-time students of the subject often find its key concepts difficult to grasp and the major textbooks somewhat formidable. The Mastering Law series should provide a comprehensible account of major areas of the law and an introduction to the controversy and debate that is inseparable from any serious study of the law. This book was commissioned by the late Lady Oliver, who gave me much encouragement, and who was a firm believer in the need for accessible student texts as an adjunct to large-scale scholarly and reference works. Certain features of the book have therefore been designed to help those who are studying criminal law for the first time. There is a Case Notes section at the end of each chapter which gives, in respect of the key cases mentioned in the text, a short account of the facts and decision. Cases that are noted in this way are marked with an asterisk when they are first mentioned in the text, and the page on which the Case notes appears is printed in bold type in the Table of Cases. In addition there is a selective bibliography (giving references to works mentioned in the text) and list of further reading for each chapter. Of the books listed, two are worth special mention; all students of English criminal law will come to know well Glanville Williams's *Textbook of Criminal Law* and Smith and Hogan's *Criminal Law*. The section of Exercises at the end of each chapter is designed both to test the reader's understanding and to stimulate further thought on the topics covered. The Workshop section gives an opportunity to practise the practical application of the rules and principles discussed. The book endeavours to state the law as at the end of March 1988.

MARISE CREMONA

Preface to the second edition

I was privileged and delighted to be asked to assume responsibility for the second edition of this book. Since the publication of the first edition there have been many significant changes in the law, as well as the production of an impressive collection of Law Commission Reports in preparation for a Criminal Code. In addition to updating the first edition, I have added a new first chapter which considers some of the principles that underlie the criminal law, and a last chapter which discusses the work to date on the Criminal Code. Sections on computer crimes, blackmail and forgery were inserted. I have restructured the way that the book dealt with some topics, such as defences. The workshop and exercise sections have been removed as students face many different styles of examination and it would be more useful for them to rely on materials provided by their own institutions.

I am very grateful for the help and support of Marise Cremona, and also thank the team at Macmillan for all of their assistance. I also greatly appreciate the assistance of many colleagues, friends and family for their support during the writing of this book, especially Elisabeth and Dennis Ford, and above all my amazing wife, Kirsten Johnson.

JONATHAN HERRING
Cambridge, August 1997