

**BOOK REVIEW: *ILLICIT SEX*  
*WITHIN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM* BY  
CARMEN M. CUSACK**

Jessica T. Bracho

Religion, tradition, sex, laws, and the justice system. Carmen M. Cusack, Ph.D., J.D., in *Illicit Sex Within the Justice System*, paints a detailed mural of how these four categories blend in, sometimes seamlessly, with each other. Cusack's book begins with an exploration of how laws are created by society's standards and are based off tradition and religion; both of which have been intertwined through time. She discusses that although times and society have changed, laws are not adapting and, in turn, are affecting the justice system. She describes both how the justice system is reliant on power and how power is achieved through many things, but particularly sex. She explains how sex is a commonly used tool and how morality has been used to suppress some while helping others advance. Cusack lays out vivid examples of this throughout the justice system—from prisoners to judges, from police officers to federal agents. She elaborates on how civilians and officials both react to power and sex, leading to

Bracho

possible deviant behavior and leadership. Cusack's book presents the urgency to end hypocrisy.