

The Myth of Deadbeat Dads

by Stephen Baskerville

Special interest groups demonized divorced fathers into “deadbeat dads,” and then criminalized them. The result: system that traces all newly hired employees, shifts the burden of proof to the accused, and throws fathers in jail for losing their jobs.

TV host Bill O’Reilly recently declared that “There is an epidemic of child abandonment in America, mainly by fathers.” Sen. Evan Bayh has attacked “irresponsible” fathers in several speeches. Campaigning for president, Al Gore promised harsher measures against “deadbeat dads,” including sending more to jail. The Clinton administration implemented numerous child-support “crackdowns,” including the ominously named Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act; the Directory of New Hires, which contains the name of every newly hired individual in the country so that any deadbeat among them can be tracked down; and the Federal Case Registry, a massive system of government surveillance that aims to monitor 16–19 million citizens.¹

In an ironic role reversal, Republicans have responded to the Democrats’ law-and-order campaign with social programs. President Bush recently announced a \$320 million program to “promote responsible fatherhood,” and Congress is considering a bill to “reconnect fathers with their families.” Yet the underlying message is similar. The administration promises to increase collections with a “five-year plan.” “We want to send the strongest possible message that parents cannot walk away from their children.”²

In fact, no evidence exists that large numbers of fathers voluntarily abandon their children. No government or academic study has ever demonstrated such an epidemic, and those studies that have addressed the question directly have concluded otherwise.

In the largest federally funded study ever conducted on the subject, psychologist Sanford Braver demonstrated that very few married fathers abandon their children.

Overwhelmingly it is mothers, not fathers, who are walking away from marriages and thus separating children from their fathers. Other studies have reached similar or more dramatic conclusions.³

Braver also found that when they are employed, virtually all divorced fathers pay the child support they owe and that the number of arrearages “estimated” by the government is derived not from any actual statistics but from surveys. The Census Bureau simply asked mothers whether they were receiving payments. No data exists to corroborate the mothers’ claims. As Braver found, “there is no actively maintained national database of child support payments.”⁴

Braver’s research undermines most justifications for the multi-billion-dollar criminal enforcement machinery, as well as the proliferation of government programs to “promote responsible fatherhood.”⁵ If Braver is to be believed — and no official or scholar has challenged his research — the government is engaged in a massive witch hunt against innocent citizens.

The system of collecting child support is no longer one of requiring men to take responsibility for their offspring, as most people believe. The combination of “no fault” divorce and the new enforcement law has created a system that pays

mothers to divorce their husbands and remove children from their fathers. "By allowing a faithless wife to keep her children and a sizable portion of her former spouse's income," writes Bryce Christensen, "current child-support laws have combined with no-fault jurisprudence to convert wedlock into snare for many guiltless men."⁶

Centuries of common-law precedent protected fathers from this possibility. "The duty of a father (now spouse) to support his children is based largely upon his right to their custody and control," ran a ruling typical of the age-old consensus. "A father has the right at Common Law to maintain his children in his own home, and he cannot be compelled against his will to do so elsewhere, unless he has refused or failed to provide for them where he lives."⁷ While few were paying attention, new laws have completely overturned this principle and created a system, as attorney Jed Abraham writes, whereby "a father is forced to finance the filching of his own children."⁸

In 1975, President Ford succumbed to pressure from bar associations and feminist groups and created the Office of

When they are employed, virtually all divorced fathers pay the child support they owe. The number of arrearages "estimated" by the government is derived not from any actual statistics but from surveys.

Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), warning that it constituted an unwarranted federal intrusion into the lives of families and the responsibilities of states. The size of the program increased tenfold from 1978 to 1998.⁹

This massive growth of law enforcement machinery was federally driven. Welfare legislation promoted by the OCSE and passed by Congress in 1984 required states to adopt child-support guidelines under the claim that it would get single-mother families off welfare by making fathers pay more. "No statistical data available then (or since) indicated that such legislation would have the desired effect," writes Robert Seidenberg. Because most nonpayment of child support results from unemployment, and most noncustodial parents of welfare children are not earning enough to pay as much child support as their children already receive in welfare, higher child-support guidelines cannot help these children.¹⁰

Then, in 1988, with no explanation or justification, the guidelines and enforcement machinery that had been created to help children on welfare were extended to include the 80% of child-support orders to children not on welfare.¹¹ Yet both Braver and a pilot study by OCSE itself had already made clear that nonpayment was not a serious problem among this class. A full-scale federal study that was planned to follow up the pilot study was quashed by OCSE when the findings of the pilot threatened the justification for its existence.¹²

Though child-support enforcement formally falls within the executive branch, the linchpin of the system is the family court, a secretive and little-understood institution. Unlike

other courts, family courts usually operate behind closed doors, generally do not record their proceedings, and keep no statistics on their decisions. Yet they reach further into the private lives of individuals and families than any other governmental arm. "The family court is the most powerful branch of the judiciary," writes Robert W. Page of the Family Court of New Jersey, "the power of family court judges is almost unlimited."¹³

Like other state court judgeships, family court judgeships are political positions, elected or appointed by commissions dominated by lawyers who have an interest in maximizing litigation.¹⁴ Family court judges wield extensive powers of patronage, thanks to their power to appoint attorneys and expert witnesses.¹⁵ Like most courts, family courts complain of being overburdened. But it is clearly in their interest to be overburdened, since their power and earnings are determined by the demand for their services.

As Judge Page recommends:

Judges and staff work on matters that are emotionally and physically draining due to the quantity and quality of the disputes presented; they should be given every consideration for salary and the other "perks" or other emoluments of their high office.

If the judiciary is viewed in part as a business, as Charles Dickens suggested, the family courts' customers are divorcing mothers who hope to win custody and windfall settlements. The more satisfied customers an enterprise has, the more it prospers. So it is not surprising that family courts are interested in attracting and satisfying customers. As Page writes:

With improved services more persons will come before the court seeking their availability. . . . As the court does a better job more persons will be attracted to it as a method of dispute resolution. . . . The better the family court system functions the higher . . . the volume of the persons served.¹⁶

The judges who remove children from their fathers and the bureaucrats who seize the fathers' property and persons are often closely connected. David Ross, head of OCSE during the Clinton administration, began his career as a family court judge before moving to higher courts and a stint in a state legislature. The OCSE Web page says he was honored as "Judge of the Year of America" by the National Reciprocal Family Support Enforcement Association in 1983 and as "Family Court Judge of the Nation" by the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) in 1989. That enforcement groups are bestowing honors upon judges indicates their interest in family court decisions, especially those that remove children from their fathers and award child support to their mothers: Without those decisions, the groups' services wouldn't be needed. And that a government Internet page boasts about awards given to its supposedly impartial judges by these interest groups indicates how little ethical scrutiny family court judges receive. The NCSEA Web page lists its members as "state and local agencies, judges, court masters, hearing officers, district attorneys, government and private attorneys, social workers, caseworkers, advocates, and other child support professionals," as well as "corporations that partner with government to enforce child support."¹⁷ In other words, it is made up entirely of people who have a financial interest in having

children separated from their fathers.

Setting child support levels is a political process conducted largely by groups that benefit from divorce. Parents are largely excluded. In about half the states, the guidelines used to set child-support levels are devised not by the legislature but by courts and enforcement agencies, and in all states the courts and enforcement agencies play a dominant role in setting the guidelines.¹⁸ Under the separation of powers we do not normally permit police and courts to make the laws they enforce and interpret, since this would create an obvious conflict of interest.

Provisions for citizen input are mostly perfunctory. In Virginia, of twelve members serving on the review commission in 1999, one member represented fathers. The rest were full-time lawyers, judges, enforcement agents, and feminists. When the fathers' representative in 2001 pointed out this fact in a *Washington Times* Op-Ed column, he was dismissed from the panel for his "opinions."¹⁹ "The commissions appointed to review the guidelines have been composed . . . of individuals who are unqualified to assess the economic validity of the guidelines, or who arguably have an interest in maintaining the status quo, or both," writes a Georgia district attorney. "In 1998, for example, of the 11 members of that Commission, two were members of the judiciary, two repre-

The combination of "no fault" divorce and the new enforcement law has created a system that pays mothers to divorce their husbands and remove children from their fathers.

sented custodial parent advocacy groups, four were either present or former child support enforcement personnel, and two were state legislators."²⁰

The conflicts of interest extend to the private sector, where privatization has created a class of government-subsidized bounty hunters with an interest in creating "delinquents." In 1998, Florida taxpayers paid \$4.5 million to Lockheed Martin IMS and Maximus, Inc. to collect \$162,000 in back child support.²¹ Supportkids of Austin, Tex. describes itself as "the private-sector leader" in what it calls the "child support industry." The company is confident of rich investment opportunities, optimistic that delinquencies will only increase. "The market served totals \$57 billion and is growing at an annual rate of \$6 billion to \$8 billion," reports its founder and CEO.

Some firms, like Policy Studies Inc. (PSI), also set the levels of what they collect. From 1983 to 1990, PSI president Robert Williams was a paid consultant with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), where he helped establish uniform state guidelines in the Child Support Guidelines Project under a grant from the National Center for State Courts. The guidelines he helped create significantly increased child-support obligations and Congress required states to implement the presumptive guidelines, giving them only a few months of legislative time to do so.²² Virtually all states met the deadline, many by quickly adopting Williams' model. "The guidelines were enacted in 1989

to insure Georgia's receipt of an estimated \$25 million in federal funds," writes William Akins. "They were hastily adopted . . . to beat the federal deadline."²³

One year after joining HHS, and the same year the federal guidelines were implemented, Williams started PSI. "With his inside knowledge [Williams] has developed a consulting business and collection agency targeting privatization opportunities with those he has consulted," explains James Johnston of the Kansas Child Support Guidelines Advisory Committee. "In 1996, his company had the greatest number of child support enforcement contracts . . . of any of

Family courts usually operate behind closed doors, generally do not record their proceedings, and keep no statistics on their decisions. Yet they reach further into the private lives of individuals and families than any other governmental arm.

the private companies that held state contracts."²⁴ PSI grew "by leaps and bounds because of the national crackdown on 'deadbeat dads.'" From three employees in 1984, PSI grew to over 500 in 1996, before welfare reform legislation took effect, from which the company "stands to profit even more."²⁵

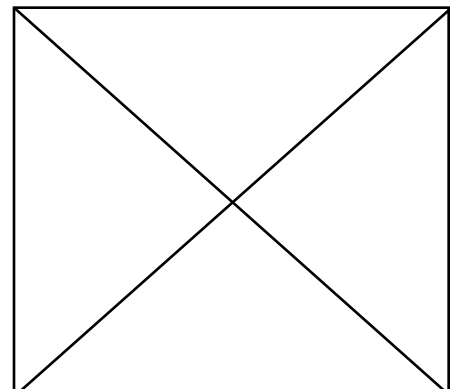
The profitability of these enterprises is a function of the size of obligations put on fathers. A collection agency only operates if there are arrearages and "delinquents." Williams therefore not only has a vested interest in making the child-support levels as high as possible, but to make them so high that they create arrearages.

Williams' model has been widely and severely criticized for its methodology. He himself has admitted that "there is no consensus among economists on the most valid theoretical model to use in deriving estimates of child-rearing expenditures" and that "use of alternative models yields widely divergent estimates."²⁶

State governments also profit from child support, according to the House Ways and Means Committee, which notes that "States are free to spend this profit in any manner the State sees fit." States profit through federal incentive payments of 6-10% on each dollar collected, as well as receiving two-thirds of operating costs and 90% of computer costs.

Federal outlays of over \$2 billion in 1996 allowed California to collect \$144 million and New York to receive \$49.1 million.²⁷

Most people assume that collections made through enforcement agencies involve arrearages or target those people who would not otherwise pay.



"Of course you're sick — we live in a sick society."

But this is not the case. To collect these federal funds states must channel all child-support payments, including those not in arrears, through their criminal enforcement machinery. This both further criminalizes the fathers and enables the government to inflate the amount of collections it makes, which helps divert attention from fact that the program operates at a consistent loss.

In January 2000, HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala announced that "the federal and state child support enforcement program broke new records in nationwide collections in fiscal year 1999, reaching \$15.5 billion, nearly twice the amount collected in 1992."²⁸ Yet the method of arriving at these figures is questionable. Figures from the OCSE show that collections in welfare-related cases (in which collection is problematic) have remained steady since 1994, while collections in non-welfare cases (in which compliance has always been high) continue a steady increase.²⁹ Thus the "increase" in collections was achieved not by collecting the

In Indiana, a father has been shackled with an electronic ankle bracelet and forced to turn over three-fourths of his salary for the college expenses of a 21-year-old "child" while his 12-year-old goes without medical treatment.

arrears built up by poor fathers but by bringing more employed, middle-class fathers, into the collection system.

Between the incentive payments, the court patronage, and the bureaucratic conflicts of interest, the systematic bullying by courts and enforcement agencies is becoming difficult to ignore. Several recent cases have attracted wide attention. In Milwaukee, a father was hauled into court and threatened with jail when penalties turned a 4-cent arrearage into hundreds of dollars. Another father was arrested for failing to pay child support during the five months he was held hostage in Iraq. In Texas, a janitor was exonerated after ten years on death row, only to be presented with a bill for \$50,000 in child support not paid while in prison. In Virginia, child support is being sought for 45-year-old "children." In Kansas and California, teenage boys have been ordered to pay child support to grown women criminally convicted of statutorily and forcibly raping them, and an 85-year-old invalid sexually assaulted by his housekeeper has had his pension garnished for child support while being denied access to the child on the grounds it was not in the "best interest of the child." In Indiana, a father has been shackled with an electronic ankle bracelet and forced to turn over three-fourths of his salary for the college expenses of a 21-year-old "child" while his 12-year-old goes without medical treatment.³⁰ The list is endless.

Perhaps most disturbing is the case of Brian Armstrong of Milford, N.H., whom many believe to have received a summary "death sentence" for losing his job. Armstrong was jailed without trial on Jan. 11, 2000 for failing to appear at a hearing of which his family claims he was not notified, and was apparently beaten to death by correctional officials. Another inmate saw Armstrong being led into a room from

which he then heard screaming before he was dragged away.³¹

Fatal beatings of fathers are probably not widespread in American jails, but the *Massachusetts News* has reported on many suicides. Charles London stabbed himself with a kitchen knife in August 1999 after being cut off from all contact with his two children and ordered to pay more than 75% of his salary in child support, leaving him with \$78 a week. The National Association for Child Support Action has published a "Book of the Dead" chronicling 55 cases which they claim the official court coroner concluded fathers were driven to suicide because of judgments from divorce courts.³²

The suicide rate of divorced fathers has skyrocketed, according to Augustine Kposowa, who attributes his finding directly to judgments from family courts. Reports by CBS, CNN, and Reuters ignored this conclusion in favor of therapeutic explanations emphasizing fathers' lack of friends and "support networks." One reporter told Kposowa his finding was not "politically correct."³³

Advocates of "unilateral" divorce have portrayed it as a "citizen's right" and even a "civil liberty."³⁴ Yet in practice, "unilateral" divorce entails highly authoritarian measures. "To preserve these perks, especially child support," writes attorney Abraham, "the government commands an extensive enforcement apparatus, a veritable gulag, complete with sophisticated surveillance and compliance capabilities such as computer-based tracing, license revocation, asset confiscation, and incarceration. The face of this regime is decidedly Orwellian."³⁵ OCSE now maintains an army of almost 60,000 plainclothes agents, with sweeping powers to seize property and persons involved in divorce proceedings, including the power to issue arrest warrants.

Hunting alleged deadbeats also rationalizes highly intrusive monitoring of all private citizens. In addition to automatic wage garnishing from all obligors, even before they become "delinquent," the New Hires Directory now compels employers to furnish the name of every new employee to the federal government. "Never before have federal officials had the legal authority and technological ability . . . to keep tabs on Americans accused of nothing," wrote the *Washington Post* on June 27, 1999. "Just like in totalitarian societies, government bureaucrats will soon have the power to deny you a job, and the ability to monitor your income, assets, and debts," says Libertarian Party Chairman Steve Dasbach. "This law turns the presumption of innocence on its head and forces every American to prove their innocence to politicians, bureaucrats, and computers."³⁶ Several state governments have even voiced dissent, including skepticism over the reality of "deadbeats." "Under the guise of cracking down on so-called deadbeat dads, the Congress has required the states to carry out a massive and intrusive federal regulatory scheme by which personal data on all state citizens" is collected, the Kansas Attorney General's office charged in a federal suit challenging the constitutionality of the mandate.³⁷

The distinction between the guilty and the innocent becomes almost meaningless, since officials are monitoring citizens who owe, those whose obligations are paid up, and those who are not under any order at all. The presumption of

guilt against those who are obeying the law was revealed by one official who boasted to the *Post* that “we don’t give them an opportunity to become deadbeats.” The presumption that not only are all parents under child support orders already quasi-criminals but that all citizens are potential criminals against whom pre-emptive enforcement measures must be initiated is revealed by Teresa Myers of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). “Some people have argued that the state should only collect the names of child support obligors, not the general population,” she suggests. But “this argument ignores the primary reason” for collecting the names: “At one point or another, many people will either be obligated to pay or eligible to receive child support.”³⁸

The presumption of guilt extends into the courtroom, where a father charged with “civil contempt” need not receive due process and may legally be presumed guilty until proven innocent. “The burden of proof may be shifted to the defendant in some circumstances,” according to a legal analysis by NCSL, which promotes aggressive prosecutions. The father can also be charged with criminal contempt. “The lines between civil and criminal contempt are often blurred in failure to pay child support cases,” NCSL continues. “Not all child support contempt proceedings classified as criminal are entitled to a jury trial.” Moreover, “even indigent obligors are not necessarily entitled to a lawyer.”³⁹ The bottom line is that a father who has lost his children through literally “no fault” of his own faces a daunting burden: He must prove his innocence without a formal charge, without counsel, and without facing a jury of his peers.

Within the world of child-support enforcement a father becomes a “deadbeat” if he fails or refuses to surrender control of his family to the hegemony of the state. “Child support is ‘paid’ only when it’s paid in a bureaucratically acceptable form,” says Bruce Walker, of the District Attorney’s Council in Oklahoma City, who claims to have jailed hundreds of fathers. A father is “supporting” his family if he pays by government-approved procedures to government-approved people and has “abandoned” it if he pays in any other way. “Men who provide non-monetary support are deadbeat dads according to the child-support system,” says Walker. “Even men who are raising in their homes the very children for whom child support is sought are deadbeat dads.”⁴⁰

Though ostensibly limited by guidelines, a judge is free to order virtually any amount in child support. A judge who decides that a father could be earning more than he does can “impute” potential income to the father and assess child support and extract attorneys’ fees based on that imputed income. The result, as Darrin White found, is that child support can exceed earnings. If a father works extra hours (perhaps to pay legal fees) or receives any other temporary income, he is then locked into that income and those hours, and the child-support level based on them, until his children are grown.⁴¹ If a relative or benefactor pays the child support on his behalf, that payment is considered a “gift” and does not offset the obligation, which the father himself still owes.

A Rutgers/University of Texas study found that “many of the absent fathers who state leaders want to track down

and force to pay child support are so destitute that their lives focus on finding the next job, next meal or next night’s shelter.”⁴² Why so many divorced fathers seem to be unemployed or penurious may be accounted for in part by the strains legal proceedings put on work schedules. Fathers are summoned to court so often they lose their jobs. The Ohio Psychological Association found that employers report losing more productive time to divorce and custody proceedings than to alcohol and drug use combined.⁴³ Many divorced fathers are either ordered out of their homes or must move out for financial reasons. They may also lose their cars, often their only means of transportation to their jobs and children. Those who fall behind in child support, regardless of the reason, now have their cars booted and their driver’s licenses and professional licenses revoked, which in turn prevents them from getting and keeping employment. An odd myopia is demonstrated in the controversy over whether to give child support priority over other debts in bankruptcy proceedings. Curiously, no one stops to ask the obvious question of why so many allegedly well-heeled deadbeats are going through bankruptcy in the first place.⁴⁴ In what some have termed a policy of “starvation,” a proposed federal regulation will render these rich playboys ineligible for food stamps.⁴⁵

It is hardly surprising that some fathers who have been worked over eventually do disappear. Anyone who has been plundered, harassed, vilified, and incarcerated — all on the pretext of supporting children taken from him by force and

A father is “supporting” his family if he pays by government-approved procedures to government-approved people and has “abandoned” it if he pays in any other way.

whom he is not permitted even to see — will eventually reach the limits of his endurance.

There is nothing mutually exclusive about protecting the rights of parents and their children not to be separated without cause and enforcing child-support collection on those men who truly abandon the offspring they have sired. Requiring men to accept financial responsibility for their progeny has been a matter of public policy for centuries. But taking away people’s children and forcing them to pay for it, as one scholar warns, is moving us “a dangerous step closer to a police state.”⁴⁶ The “deadbeat dad,” whom Braver and others diplomatically call a myth, is really more like a hoax, the creation of groups with an interest in separating children from their fathers and criminalizing the fathers.

Notes

1. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) press release, Sept. 28, 1998, and Website of the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE); <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cse/pubs/2000/datereport/ch03.html#N91CD>, accessed Oct. 1, 2001.
2. *Washington Times*, Dec. 10, 2001; *Handbook on Child Support Enforcement*, HHS, OCSE, Washington, D.C. (online: <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cse/ft/cshdbk.htm>; accessed Oct. 1, 2001).
3. Sanford L. Braver, *Divorced Dads: Shattering the Myths* (New York:

- Tarcher/Putnam, 1998), Chapter 7. Margaret F. Brinig and Douglas W. Allen, "These Boots Are Made for Walking: Why Most Divorce Filers Are Women," *American Economics and Law Review*, Vol. 2, Issue 1 (Spring 2000), pp. 126-27, 129, 158 (original emphasis). Women were "more than three times as likely as men to initiate separation," not with grounds such as desertion or adultery but for reasons such as "communications problems" and "drifting apart." Ilene Wolcott and Jody Hughes, *Towards Understanding the Reasons for Divorce* (Melbourne: Australian Institute of Family Studies, Working Paper No. 20, June 1999).
4. Braver, *Divorced Dads*, pp. 21-22 and Chapter 2, *passim* (emphasis original).
 5. Robert Locke, "Deadbeat Social Scientists," *FrontPageMagazine.com*, July 2, 2001 (<http://frontpagemag.com/columnists/locke/2001/locke06-29-01.htm>; accessed Oct. 15, 2001).
 6. Bryce Christensen, "The Strange Politics of Child Support," *Society*, Vol. 39, No. 1 (Nov.-Dec. 2001), p. 65. This "snare" can easily amount to a prison sentence without trial.
 7. *Butler v. Commonwealth*, 132 Va. 609, 110 S.E. 868 (1922).
 8. Jed H. Abraham, *From Courtship to Courtroom: What Divorce Law Is Doing to Marriage* (New York: Bloch, 1999), p. 151.
 9. 1998 *Green Book*, House of Representatives, Ways and Means Committee Print WMCP:105-7, U.S. Government Printing Office Online via GPO Access, Section 8, "Funding of State Programs."
 10. Robert Seidenberg, *The Father's Emergency Guide to Divorce-Custody Battle* (Takoma Park, Maryland: JES, 1997), pp. 107-8; Irwin Garfinkel and Sarah McLanahan, *Single Mothers and Their Children, A New American Dilemma* (Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Press, 1986), pp. 24-25. Christensen also found "windfalls to the custodial parents." "Strange Politics of Child Support," p. 66.
 11. FY 1998 *Preliminary Data Report* (Washington: Office of Child Support Enforcement, May 1999), Figure 2, p. 35.
 12. S.L. Braver, P.J. Fitzpatrick, and R. Bay, "Adaption of the Non-Custodial Parents: Patterns over Time," paper presented at the conference of the American Psychological Association, Atlanta, 1988; F.L. Sonenstein and C.A. Calhoun, "Determinants of Child Support: A Pilot Survey of Absent Parents," *Contemporary Policy Issues* 8 (1990).
 13. Robert W. Page, "Family Courts: An Effective Judicial Approach to the Resolution of Family Disputes," *Juvenile and Family Court Journal*, Vol. 44, No. 1 (1993), pp. 9, 11. Former Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas called family court "kangaroo court." *In Re Gault*, 387 U.S. 1, 27-28 (1967).
 14. Jerome R. Corsi, *Judicial Politics* (Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall, 1984), pp. 107-114; Richard A. Watson and Rondal G. Downing, *The Politics of the Bench and the Bar* (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1969), pp. 98, 336, use the term "cronystic."
 15. Herbert Jacob, *Justice in America: Courts, Lawyers, and the Judicial Process* (4th ed., Boston and Toronto: Little Brown, 1984), p. 112.
 16. Page, "Family Courts," pp. 19, 20.
 17. Online: <http://www.ncsea.org/about/> (accessed Sept. 28, 2001).
 18. Laura W. Morgan, *Child Support Guidelines: Interpretation and Application* (New York: Aspen Law and Business, 1998), Table 1-2, p. 1-12.
 19. Daniel F. Drummond, "Professor Ousted From Child-Support Panel," *Washington Times*, Aug. 4, 2001.
 20. William C. Akins, "Why Georgia's Child Support Guidelines Are Unconstitutional," *Georgia Bar Journal* Vol. 6, No. 2 (Oct. 2000), n.p.
 21. Kathleen Parker, "Deadbeat Dads More Myth Than Reality," *Orlando Sentinel*, Jan. 24, 1999; Parke and Brott, *Throwaway Dads*, 68.
 22. R. Mark Rogers and Donald J. Bieniewicz, "Child Cost Economics and Litigation Issues: An Introduction to Applying Cost Shares Child Support Guidelines," paper presented at the Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Alexandria, Va. (Nov. 20, 2000), pp. 2, 5.
 23. Akins, "Why Georgia's Child Support Guidelines Are Unconstitutional."
 24. James R. Johnston, "The Father of Today's Child Support Public Policy, His Personal Exploitation of the System, and the Fallacy of His 'Income Shares' Model in Use in Kansas," *Fathering Magazine* (Aug. 1999), <http://www.fathermag.com>.
 25. *Denver Business Journal*, vol. 47, no. 38 (May 31, 1996), p. 3A(2); Vol. 48, No. 42 (June 27, 1997), p. 18A(1).
 26. R. Mark Rogers, "Wisconsin-Style and Income Shares Child Support Guidelines: Excessive Burdens and Flawed Economic Foundation," *Family Law Quarterly*, vol. 33, no. 1 (Spring 1999).
 27. 1998 *Green Book*, Section 8.
 28. HHS press release, Jan. 27, 2000.
 29. FY 1998 *Preliminary Data Report*.
 30. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, April 10, 1998; *Washington Times* April 27, 1999; *Los Angeles Times*, Oct. 11-12, 1998; *Quintela v. Quintela*; Neb. Ct. App., 4 Neb. App. 396, 2/27/96 (cited in *Speak Out For Children*, Vol. 12, No. 1 (Fall 1996/Winter 1997), p. 11); *Richmond Times-Dispatch* on July 12, 1998; *San Francisco Examiner*, Dec. 1, 1996; Supreme Court of Kansas, 252 Kan. 646; 847 P.2d 1273; 1993 Kan.; Associated Press, Oct. 30, 1998; Susan Hiller, "Elderly Man Who Said He Was Sexually Assaulted by Maid Awarded Damages," *National Post* 3 Oct. 3, 2000; *Oregonian* Aug. 21, 1999; Alliance for Non-Custodial Parents' Rights (ANCPR) press release, Dec. 4, 1999; *Canadian Press*, Nov. 13, 1998; ANCPR press release, Sept. 31, 1999.
 31. *Manchester Union Leader and New Hampshire Sunday News*, online edition, Feb. 13 and March 5, 2000, and interview with the Armstrong family.
 32. Online: <http://www.nacsa.org>.
 33. Augustine J. Kposowa, "Marital Status and Suicide in the National Longitudinal Mortality Study," *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* 54 (March 15, 2000); Univ. of California at Riverside press release, no date (<http://www.ucr.edu/SubPages/2CurNewsFold/UnivRelat/suicide.html>); and reports by Reuters, CBS News, and CNN, all on March 15, 2000.
 34. Glenda Riley, *Divorce: An American Tradition* (New York: Oxford, 1991), p. 6.
 35. Jed Abraham, *From Courtship to Courtroom: What Divorce Law Is Doing to Marriage* (New York: Bloch, 1999), pp. 154-155.
 36. Libertarian Party press release, Feb. 11, 1998.
 37. *Topeka Capital-Journal*, Jan. 22, 2000; interview with Assistant Attorney General M.J. Willoughby, Oct. 3, 2001; 24 F. Supp. 2d 1192 and 214 F.3d 1196.
 38. NCSL Internet site: <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/cyf/csissue.htm> (accessed Jan. 24, 2000).
 39. NCSL Internet site: <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/cyf/Criminalnon.htm> (accessed Aug. 28, 2001).
 40. Bruce Walker, "Deadbeat Dads? Look Closer," *Christian Science Monitor*, 16 Aug. 16, 1996, p. 18.
 41. Akins, "Why Georgia's Child Support Guidelines Are Unconstitutional."
 42. Kathryn Edin, Laura Lein, and Timothy Nelson, *Low-Income, Non-Residential Fathers: Off-Balance in a Competitive Economy*, In *Initial Analysis* (Sept. 28, 1998). HHS website: <http://fatherhood.hhs.gov/ELN/eln98.htm>; *Houston Chronicle*, Dec. 18, 1998.
 43. OPA newsletter, *Behavior Today*, Vol. 21, No. 8 (Feb. 1990).
 44. 1998 *Green Book*, Section 8, "Bankruptcy and Child Support Enforcement."
 45. *Federal Register*, Dec. 17, 1999 (64 FR 70919).
 46. Christensen, "Strange Politics of Child Support, p. 63.