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From the Keystones Kops of early cinema to broadcast news coverage of the beating of Rodney King, the media's capacity to amplify police misconduct contributes to police reform. Good Cop/Bad Cop offers the first extended review of the influence of the mass media on local and federal law enforcement. Adopting an interdisciplinary approach and drawing upon popular characterizations of law enforcement from movies, the press, television, and literature, this book argues that police reform is inextricably linked to the rise and technological development of the mass media. It illustrates how new forms of media communication generate new forms of information about police practices while revealing this information to the public for the first time. Periodically, this new information portrays law enforcement in a less-than-favorable light, ushering in public demands for police reform. But while the mass media exert an influence upon police practices, law enforcement officials also exert a powerful influence upon media coverage of crime and justice policies and practices. This book documents law enforcement's close monitoring of the police image as well as attempts by government officials to utilize mass media to further their crime control objectives. It also uses data garnered from a national study on police-media relations to provide a comprehensive discussion of the public relations skills performed daily by police media spokespersons. Unique in its coverage of the history of policing, Good Cop/Bad Cop casts the mass media as central to police reform and argues that a free and independent press is a prerequisite to innovations and improvements in policing.

Introduction Policing in an Era of Mass Media Media and Reflexivity "Read All About It!" Police and the Press Police and Early Cinema A War Against Crime! Policing the Media Professionalism, Protest, and Prime Time: Televised Policing From Police Officer to Spin Doctor: Contemporary Police-Media Relations Contradictions and Conclusions: Reflexive Policing References Index

Good Cop/Bad Cop" offers the first extended review of the influence of the mass media on local and federal law enforcement in the U.S. Adopting an interdisciplinary approach and drawing upon popular characterizations of law enforcement from movies, newspapers, television, and literature, this book argues that police reform is inextricably linked to the rise and technological development of the mass media. It illustrates how new forms of media communication generate

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new forms of information about police practices. Periodically, this new information portrays law enforcement in a less-than-favorable light, ushering in public demands for police reform. Law enforcement officials also exert a powerful influence upon media coverage of crime and justice policies and practices. Data from the author's recent national study on police media relations provide insight into the public relations activities performed daily by police spokespersons. Good Cop/Bad Cop casts the mass media as central to police reform, and argues that a free and independent press is a prerequisite to innovations and improvements in policing. Jarret S. Lovell is Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at California State University, Fullerton. "Lovell describes the extent to which the police have always been media-sensitive and how they are now caught in a world wide web of electronic communications and swim in a sea of images? - Excerpt from the Foreword by Prof. Peter Kirby Manning, Northeastern University.

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