

MANAGING AND COORDINATING MAJOR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Second Edition



Robert F. Kilfeather



CRC Press
Taylor & Francis Group

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Preface

The first edition of this book (1981) was the result of a perceived need identified while I was the Director of the FDLE, Division of Criminal Investigation. Florida found itself literally inundated with large, well-organized drug-smuggling rings. That, plus the ever-increasing major-crime workloads, strained law enforcement resources beyond their capabilities for an effective response. (Florida averaged a population growth of 1,000 people per day, steady for the past twenty-five years; that is 7 to 8 million.) The complexity, nature, and size of individual major cases had outstripped administrative ability to handle them.

Major drug rings routinely numbered in a range of 750 to 1,000 plus members, each. An effective system of managing and coordinating major cases needed to be developed and then implemented. The answer is to develop criminal investigators, agency supervisors, and administrators into competent case managers. All well and good, but they must have case information and a control system at their fingertips.

In 1981, a training seminar was developed and then presented at regular intervals in Florida. The enthusiastic response to this training program by attending law officers from numerous state, county, and city police and prosecutors' agencies, from many regions across the United States, prompted that first edition. The first edition of this book was used as a lecture guide and handout reference material. The audience consisted of highly experienced case investigators and managers looking for improved control and efficiency of systems. Each meeting was a quiet, slow, and detailed discussion of our problems, with resulting solutions.

This second edition is presented due to several well-informed prosecutors and police officials suggesting a need for an "update." The outline format of the first edition needed expansion; more detail was required, and case systems needed updating. The update and expansion will broaden the audience for this book. Detective trainees and uniform supervisors will benefit. In addition, technology has radically improved over the past twenty-five years; but in many places, management has not been able to develop the advanced system capabilities now available. The reasons are numerous and include political failure to fund improvements, inertia in some organizations, and, in a few places, a lack of management initiative. There is no excuse in the current operating theater of law enforcement that a single agency that is legislatively charged with major criminal case investigation not be equipped with