

## ABOUT THE EDITOR OF *CRIMINAL JUSTICE?*

**ROBERT JAMES BIDINOTTO** is an award-winning journalist, columnist, and lecturer, who specializes in cultural and public policy issues.

A frequent contributor to *Reader's Digest*, he is perhaps best known for his article "Getting Away With Murder" in July 1988. That investigative piece stirred a national controversy about prison furlough programs during the 1988 presidential campaign, and helped make convicted killer Willie Horton a household name. *The Almanac of American Politics 1990* called Bidinotto's article "the most influential piece of journalism in the whole campaign." It was honored by the American Society of Magazine Editors as one of the five finalists for Best Magazine Story of 1988 in the "Public Interest" category.

An expert on the subject of crime, Bidinotto has published exposes in *Reader's Digest* of the criminal justice system's "revolving-door" policies, of its lenient treatment of sex offenders, of probation abuses, and of laws which keep criminal "rap sheets" secret. His November 1994 *Reader's Digest* article, "Must Our Prisons Be Resorts?", garnered enormous public attention and inspired federal legislation to reduce excessive amenities available to prison inmates.

During the National Victims' Rights Week ceremony in New York on April 21, 1991 a coalition of 22 crime victims' groups presented Bidinotto their national 1991 Media Award, "for sensitivity and fairness in reporting victims' issues." In 1985 The Free Press Association awarded him its prestigious Mencken Award for Best Feature Story.

*Criminal Justice? The Legal System Versus Individual Responsibility* is Bidinotto's first book. Published by the Foundation for Economic Education, the book was immediately acclaimed by legal scholars, victims' rights groups and law enforcement officials, and was distributed to every member of the 104th Congress.

Bidinotto is a columnist for *The Freeman*, a journal of the social sciences. His wide-ranging articles, essays, book and film reviews also have appeared in *The Boston Herald*, *Success*, *The American Spectator*, *City Journal*, *Reason* and many other publications. A frequent public speaker, he has been a guest on scores of radio and television programs, including CNBC's "Rivera Live," "The David Brenner Show," CNN's "Sonya Live," "The Rush Limbaugh Show," "Geraldo," "The Armstrong Williams Show," and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation radio network.

Bidinotto works from his western Pennsylvania home, where he lives with his wife and daughter. He is working on a novel, as well as more *Reader's Digest* investigative projects.