## CRIMINAL LAW IN THE NEWS

In May 2015, a violent confrontation in Waco, Texas, between members of two competing outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMGs) left nine dead and eighteen injured and led to the arrest of 171 individuals charged with organized criminal activity. The arrests also led to the seizure of over one hundred firearms and highlighted the criminal activity of motorcycle gangs. Several hundred chains, brass knuckles, knives, and clubs also were seized by the police.

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) describes OMGs as organizations whose membership "uses their motorcycle clubs as conduits for criminal enterprises." The clubs according to the federal government are involved in manufacturing, smuggling, and distributing unlawful narcotics and in kidnapping, extortion, insurance fraud, prostitution, gun smuggling, and arson. OMGs according to the DOJ collect $1 billion a year from their illicit activities.

The FBI's 2011 National Gang Threat Assessment estimated that there are forty-four thousand members of OMGs affiliated with roughly three thousand active gangs. These gang members amount to 2.5 percent of all gang members in the United States. The membership of the most influential gangs ranges from 250 to 900, and the gangs tend to be dominant in specific areas of the country.

The FBI and the Criminal Intelligence Service Canada have named four motorcycle clubs as "outlaw motorcycle gangs." The co-called "Big Four" gangs are the Hells Angels, the Pagans, the Outlaws, and the Bandidos. The California Attorney General also includes the Mongols and the Vagabonds as important