CRIMINAL LAW IN THE NEWS

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, "Jahar" to his friends, was a popular high school student who liked wrestling, soccer, and hip-hop; enjoyed marijuana; and followed popular television programs like *The Walking Dead* and *Game of Thrones*. On April 15, 2013, nineteen-year-old Jahar and his twenty-six-year-old brother Tamerlan positioned two pressure cooker homemade bombs at the finish line of the Boston Marathon. The marathon is held each year on Patriots' Day, a long-standing citywide celebration. The bombs exploded as the runners approached, killing three persons, including an eight-year-old child, and injuring 264 others, a number of whom sustained life-altering injuries. As you read about the Tsarnaev brothers, do not forget about the pain and suffering of the victims.

As the investigation centered on the Tsarnaev brothers, they fled and encountered and killed Sean Collier, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology police officer; and they stole an SUV, kidnapped the driver, and when cornered by the police engaged in a shoot-out in which Tamerlan was killed. Jahar escaped in the SUV and took refuge in a dry-docked motorboat. Roughly eighteen hours later, Jahar found himself surrounded by police and surrendered to FBI negotiators. Jahar before being apprehended scrawled a message in the boat that "the U.S. . . . is killing our innocent civilians . . . I can't stand to see such evil go unpunished. . . . We Muslims are one body, you hurt one, you hurt us all. . . . F__ America." He allegedly also referred to the victims of the Boston bombings as "collateral damage" who deserved their fate because of the Muslims killed by the United States across the globe. Jahar also allegedly wrote that he did not mourn for his brother who now was a martyr in paradise.

Jahar pled not guilty to thirty counts, seventeen of which carried a potential death penalty. The central count charged him with using and conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction that resulted in death.