

## Contributors and Members of the Research Team

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WILLIAM C. BIRDSALL was ordained as a Jesuit priest in 1966 after receiving his PhD in economics from the Johns Hopkins University. He left the priesthood in 1969 and became a policy analyst at the Social Security Administration. He taught economics at McMaster University, then taught research, statistics, and policy at the University of Michigan School of Social Work from 1973 until his retirement in 2002. He joined the sexual-abuse research group as the statistician in 2000, encouraging the initiation of the qualitative analysis of St. Mary's experience because the statistical analysis clearly could not reveal why it was so successful at prosecuting sexual abuse of children. He participated in a majority of the interviews and attended two trials.

ELANA D. BUCH is a doctoral candidate in Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Anthropology at the University of Michigan. She has published articles on ethnographic and feminist research methodologies and has taught classes on the history of anthropological theory. Her research focuses on the intersections of aging, low-wage work, kinship and social policy. Her dissertation is an ethnographic comparison of publicly and

privately funded home care of older adults. Elana worked as a research assistant throughout the data-gathering phase of this project. In this role, she conducted several interviews (Studebaker, Jackson, Noeker, O'Dell, and Henry), most in conjunction with William Birdsall. She also helped facilitate the scheduling of other interviews, edited interview transcripts, managed data, and provided general organizational support during the first several years of the project. Elana acted as the resident anthropologist on the team, providing methodological advice about data collection and interpretation while pushing for greater attention to the ways that local cultural understandings about sex, gender, language, children, justice, and truth contributed to the development of the St. Mary County protocol.

KATHLEEN COULBORN FALLER, PHD, ACSW, is Marion Elizabeth Blue Endowed Professor of Children and Families, director of the Family Assessment Clinic, and principal investigator of the Recruitment and Retention of Child Welfare Employees Program and of the Early Assessment Project, all at the University of Michigan School of Social Work. She is the author of eight books and approximately seventy articles and book chapters. Six of the eight books are on child sexual abuse. She became fascinated with St. Mary County when she agreed to serve as research mentor for Jim Henry, then a new assistant professor, in 1998. Success in sexual-abuse case management is rare, and professional openness to sharing information about the process is even rarer. Faller, Henry, and other members of the research team published three articles using the St. Mary County court-file data. She has reviewed many videotapes of their child interviews and suspect polygraphs. She brings to the research team knowledge of the research and practice literature on child sexual abuse and thirty years of experience conducting child forensic interviews and family assessments when sexual abuse is suspected. She interviewed the two polygraph operators, the sex-offender assessment and treatment specialist, and three staff members from the Department of Human Services.

JIM HENRY has a professional history that includes more than eighteen years as a child welfare/protective services worker and more than ten years developing and providing trauma-informed instruction in the social work curriculum as a professor at Western Michigan University. He is the cofounder and director of the Southwest Michigan Children's Trauma Assessment Center through Western Michigan University. He

has written several articles on child-welfare-system issues and trauma-informed assessment and interventions with maltreated children. He frequently presents talks on the impact of child trauma on development and behavior. He has been the primary liaison with St. Mary's County, supervising the collection and entry of court-file data and interviewing several professionals.

KAREN M. STALLER is associate professor at the University of Michigan School of Social Work. She holds a JD from the Cornell University Law School and a PhD from the Columbia University School of Social Work. She attended several meetings and listened to descriptions of the projects that the St. Mary study group was working on, suggesting a more qualitative approach to studying the community, from which humble beginnings this study was born. Staller participated in several interviews and attended one trial, and she took primary responsibility in designing the study and supervising its implementation. Often her role was to teach team members who were unfamiliar with qualitative methods how to think differently about asking and answering questions. Once the evidence was collected, she took the lead in team meetings in reading transcripts and analyzing the empirical evidence. Her role was to facilitate, coordinate, and synthesize the material from these analysis sessions, as well as to help prepare this book for publication.

FRANK E. VANDERVORT is clinical assistant professor of law at the University of Michigan Law School, where he teaches in the Child Advocacy Clinic and Juvenile Justice Clinic. He began his career as a deputy defender in the Juvenile Defender Office in Wayne County (Detroit), Michigan. For two years he was the executive director of the Children's Law Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1997, he became the program manager of the Michigan Child Welfare Law Resource Center at the University of Michigan Law School and joined the faculty in 2005. He writes and speaks frequently regarding the effect of the law on children. His contributions to this book include traveling to St. Mary County to observe one day of the Inman trial; participating in interviews with the three defense attorneys, the three prosecutors, a judge, and several community-based service providers; and conducting Jim Henry's interview. He read and provided feedback on each chapter and has made law-related contributions to a number of them.

