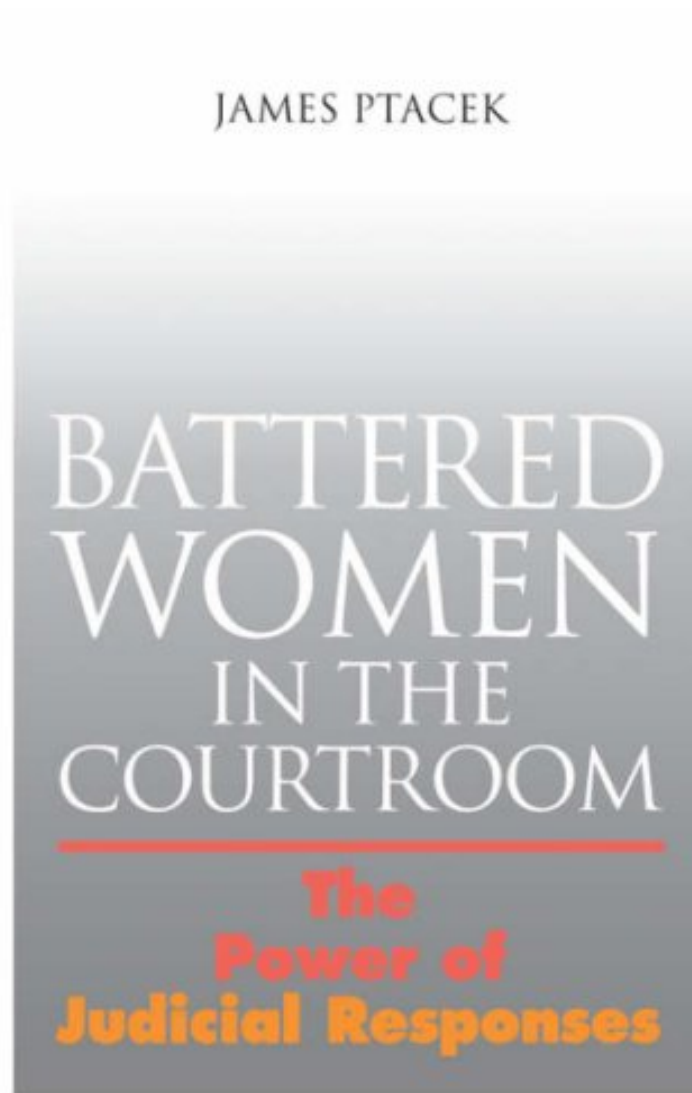


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Battered Women In The Courtroom: The Power of Judicial Responses (Northeastern Series on Gender, Crime, and Law)

James Ptacek

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James Ptacek : Battered Women In The Courtroom: The Power of Judicial Responses (Northeastern Series on Gender, Crime, and Law) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Battered Women In The Courtroom: The Power of Judicial Responses (Northeastern Series on Gender, Crime, and Law):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not BadBy thekingPurchased it as required reading for a graduate class. Not a bad book, a lot of good insight. If you are doing research on the topic you will certainly be happy to read this. Ptacek is very knowledgeable on the subject and really has a passion for teaching.

Recent laws have given women much-needed rights in seeking protection from abusive men, but judges still hold the authority to issue restraining orders or send batterers to jail. While most studies on state intervention for victims have focused on the role of police, *Battered Women in the Courtroom* looks at the lives of abused women. This investigation of women, violence, and the courts centers on encounters between women and judges in restraining order hearings in Massachusetts, one of the first states to offer new civil and criminal options to victims of abusive behavior. It also examines the feminist political movements that gave rise to current state laws and considers the effects of men's violence on women's daily lives. James Ptacek questions whether judges still respond to abused women with indifference or impatience, as they have in the past, or whether they now treat battering as a serious crime. He looks at the types of violence that women report to the courts, analyzes how judges exercise their authority in restraining order hearings, examines how they perceive their role in negotiations with women, and studies their impact on women's efforts to escape the social entrapment of violence. The author also considers class and racial dimensions of the issue by drawing on cases from both white and African American communities. Ptacek exposes many of the myths and dilemmas about the abuse of women while addressing the political, institutional, and socio-psychological aspects of women's experiences with the courts. He offers crucial insights into the power of judges to encourage or discourage women from claiming their rights under the law.

About the Author James Ptacek is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Suffolk University, where he is also on the faculty of the master's program in criminal justice. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.