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John Petrila is a professor in the Department of Mental Health Law & Policy and in the USF College of Public Health. He is also the Director of the FMHI Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Technical Assistance Center. He served as Chair of MHLP from 1992-2004. Petrila was General Counsel to the New York State Office of Mental Health and the first Director of Forensic Services in the Missouri Department of Mental Hygiene. He has published frequently on mental health law and policy issues, and authored the chapter on confidentiality in the United States Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health. He is a member of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Mandated Community Care, Past-President of the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services, and co-editor of *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*. He received his law degree and an advanced degree in mental health law from the University of Virginia, School of Law.