

PREFACE**THE PROBATION OF OFFENDERS ACT, 1958**

Great ideas often have modest beginning. This is true as far as the genesis of the Probation of Offenders Act 1958 is concerned. In 1841, when John Augustus, a U.S. shoe - maker stood bail for a drunken convict for his release and rehabilitation, would not have least expected that his act would, in the long run, pave way for the evolution of one of the most celebrated legal principles namely reformation of juvenile delinquents and first offenders through an opportunity of 'Probation'.

Every nation, without exception, has adopted the 'Probation system' through their legal enactments.

Probation, together with Juvenile Justice, have helped in creation of new attitudes towards offenders and have extended the function of criminal justice beyond 'Traditional Sentencing'.

Probation law crept into India, through the Probation of Offenders Act 1958, and the Children's Act 1960, (which was later repealed and substituted by the Juvenile Justice Act 1986).

The Probation of Offenders Act 1958, for the purpose of convenient study, is divided into three chapters – introductory, objects and finally main provisions.

The study would enable the readers to have a wide vision about the reformative laws in India.

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*** In the margin of the index denotes **'most important'** chapter.

** In the margin of the index denotes **'very important'** chapter.

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