

Book Review: Geoff K. Ward, *The Black Child-Savers: Racial Democracy and Juvenile Justice*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012. ISBN: 978-0226873183 (Paperback). 336 Pages. \$32.00.

Reviewed by Melba Joyce Boyd¹

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Detroit is the most economically depressed large city in the United States. This reality is directly related to the dire economic circumstances of African Americans, who comprise approximately 80% of the current population. Detroit's official unemployment rate is 25%, but considering "jobless Detroiters left out of the official count, academics and Detroit city officials estimated the real unemployment rate is as high as 50%" ("State of the Detroit Child 2010," Skillman Foundation, 10-11). Concurrently, the poverty rate is one of the highest in the nation, and the high school dropout rate is abysmal. Education Secretary Arne Duncan called the Detroit Public Schools (DPS) dropout rate "devastating," and he told the *Detroit Free Press*, DPS is "arguably the worst urban school district in the country now" (*MLive.com*, November 18, 2010).

Consequently, Detroit has one of highest crime rates, which is likewise reflected in the juvenile delinquency rate. The 2012 "Michigan Statewide Juvenile Arrest Analysis Report," which was prepared for the Michigan Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Funding and Juvenile Programs and the Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice, compiled statistics that identified Detroit's Wayne County with 5,485 juvenile arrests, the highest in the state. Of a total 10 juvenile arrests for homicide in the state, 5 were in Wayne County. Wayne County also had the highest arrest rate for narcotics and weapons violations.

In order to acquire some understanding of how and why these dismal statistics exist, especially as it relates to black juveniles, Geoff Ward's

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