Gary Chartier elaborates an account of economic justice rooted in the natural law tradition, explaining how it is relevant to economic issues and developing natural law accounts of property, distribution and work. He examines a range of case studies related to ownership, production, distribution, and consumption, using natural law theory as a basis for staking positions on a number of contested issues related to economic life and highlighting the potentially progressive and emancipatory dimension of natural law theory.

Gary Chartier is Associate Professor of Law and Business Ethics and Associate Dean of the School of Business at La Sierra University.
For Elenor
CONTENTS

Acknowledgments page ix

Introduction 1
   I The plan of the book 2
   II The core of natural law theory 6
   III Basic aspects of well being 7
   IV Requirements of practical reasonableness 13
   V The shape of practical reason in the natural law view 23
   VI Natural law and social order 26
   VII Natural law and economic life 31

1 Foundations: property 32
   I Property regimes as contingent but constrained social strategies 32
   II Rationales for property rights 33
   III The limits of property 43
   IV Property and justice 46

2 Foundations: distribution 47
   I Distribution and practical reasonableness 47
   II Commercial exchange and justice in distribution 55
   III The public trust threshold 60
   IV Justice and distribution 67

3 Foundations: work 69
   I Responsibility at work 70
   II Good cause and due process 73
   III Nondiscrimination 83
   IV Natural law and workplace democracy 89
   V Workers and investors in the worker-governed firm 107
   VI Objections to workplace democracy 109
   VII Justice at work 120
## CONTENTS

### 4 Remedies: property  123

1. Principles for property reform  123  
2. Alternative bases for peasants’ and workers’ claims  131  
3. Property rights for peasants in the land they work  135  
4. Property rights for workers in their workplaces  141  
5. Residential property rights and urban renewal  146  
6. Property rights and remediation  154  

### 5 Remedies: distribution  155

1. Natural law and redistribution  156  
2. Natural law and economic norms, rules, and institutions  159  
3. Health care  161  
4. Basic income  164  
5. Poverty relief outside one’s own community  167  
6. Boycotts  176  
7. Remedies for injustice, disaster, and economic insecurity  182  

### 6 Remedies: work  185

1. The value of collective bargaining  186  
2. Worker participation in the direction of investor-governed firms  199  
3. Setting workplace standards using collective bargaining  202  
4. Collective bargaining and sweatshop labor  211  
5. Limited justice in unjust workplaces  225  

Conclusion  226

Index  229
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As is surely appropriate for a book about justice, Economic Justice and Natural Law reflects the importance in my life of multiple debts of gratitude.

Elenor Webb has offered me many welcome opportunities for dialogue and exchange.

The careful attention four anonymous reviewers gave to my arguments and to the ways in which I express them has substantially improved this book. I have often explicitly noted throughout the text their contributions to the development of my arguments, but they should be confident that I acknowledge, and am grateful for, their assistance even in cases where I have not made direct reference to their suggestions and insights.

Charles Teel, Jr., read an earlier draft of the manuscript and offered many helpful suggestions. I benefited enormously from the editorial assistance of Logan Dirksen, who provided valuable assistance with references.

Fiñola O’Sullivan, Richard Woodham, Dan Dunlavey, Leigh Mueller and Helen Francis of Cambridge University Press all deserve my gratitude as well for their various contributions to the book’s development.


Other people who participated in discussions with me regarding the material included in this book or who have otherwise contributed to its

I am immensely pleased by the opportunities I have had to learn over the last two decades from the work of contemporary natural law theorists; I thank Germain Grisez, John Finnis, Robert P. George, Joseph M. Boyle, Jr., Chris Tollefsen, Mark C. Murphy, Alfonso Gómez-Lobo, and Timothy Chappell for the insights their work has offered me. My understanding of a range of economic and organizational issues has also been substantially enhanced by Kevin Carson’s extremely thoughtful and creative work, even if, like the new classical natural law theorists, he is likely to conclude that I have not yet learned enough.

I hope in this book to honor the memories of Stanley E. Chartier and H. Glenn Chartier, whose arguments decades ago may first have exposed me to some of the issues regarding economic life with which I am still wrestling here, and of Helen Chartier, who regarded my political and economic views with skeptical but genial tolerance even as she gave me more love than I could ever have deserved.

I draw here will recognize that the articles have undergone significant changes. Many of these changes reflect a shift in my own thinking from a position exhibiting many affinities with a purified corporate liberalism to a more radical opposition to the power of both the large business organization and the state.