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Objectivity in Law and Morals

Are there objectively right answers to legal questions? Can judicial decisions be objective when legal questions present moral issues? These and related questions about objectivity are at the center of current debate in legal theory. This volume is the first collection to bring the rich philosophical literature in metaethics that has developed since the 1970s into contact with fundamental problems in legal philosophy.

The seven original essays, written by some of the world's most distinguished moral and legal philosophers, bring a sophisticated philosophical perspective to bear on issues about the objectivity of legal interpretation and judicial decision making. They examine the intersection between objectivity in ethics and objectivity in law in the positivist and natural law traditions, and they develop a variety of approaches, constructive and critical, to the fundamental problems about the objectivity of morality. One of the key issues explored is that of the alleged "domain-specificity" of conceptions of objectivity, that is, whether there is a conception of objectivity appropriate for ethics that is different in kind from the conception of objectivity appropriate for the sciences and other domains.

As a whole, the volume presents a state-of-the-art survey of live issues in metaethics and examines their relevance to theorizing about law and adjudication.

Brian Leiter is Joe A. Worsham Centennial Professor in Law, Professor of Philosophy, and Director of the Law and Philosophy Program at The University of Texas at Austin.

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