The relationship between private and public law has long been the focus of critical attention, but recent years have seen the growing influence upon private law of statutory intervention, public regulation, corporate globalisation and constitutional and international human rights norms. Such developments increasingly call into question the capacity of private law reasoning to operate in isolation from public institutions and goals. Commencing with three contrasting visions of the nature and importance of distinctions between public and private in the modern day, this book traces a number of encounters between private law and ‘public’ values in key areas of private law doctrine, such as charity law, commercial law, tort law and class actions, across several jurisdictions. It examines the influence within these fields of public concepts and goals, such as behavioural modification, accountability and anti-discrimination norms, as well as the (reverse) influence that private law has upon (‘public’) human rights jurisprudence.

KIT BARKER is Professor of Law at TC Beirne School of Law, The University of Queensland.

Darryn Jensen is a Senior Lecturer at TC Beirne School of Law, The University of Queensland.
PRIVATE LAW

Key Encounters with Public Law

Edited by

KIT BARKER

and

DARRYN JENSEN
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CONTRIBUTORS

KIT BARKER is Professor of Law at the TC Beirne School of Law, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

JEFF BERRYMAN is Professor of Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada and of the Faculty of Law, University of Auckland, New Zealand (fractional chair).

ROBYN CARROLL is Professor of Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Western Australia, Western Australia.

MICHELLE FLAHERTY is Assistant Professor of Law at the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa, Canada.

MATTHEW HARDING is Associate Professor of Law at the Melbourne Law School, The University of Melbourne, Australia.

STEVE HEDLEY is Professor of Law at University College, Cork, Ireland.

ALASTAIR HUDSON is Professor of Equity and Finance Law in the Faculty of Law at the University of Southampton, UK.

DARRYN JENSEN is Senior Lecturer in Law at the TC Beirne School of Law, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

ANITA K. KRUG is Assistant Professor at the University of Washington School of Law, USA.

WILLIAM LUCY is Professor of Law at Durham Law School, Durham University, UK.

ADAM PARACHIN is Associate Professor of Law in the Faculty of Law, the University of Western Ontario, Canada.
LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

DAN PRIEL is Assistant Professor of Law at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Canada.

CHRISTIAN TURNER is Assistant Professor of Law at the School of Law, The University of Georgia, USA.

ALEXANDER WILLIAMS is Lecturer in Law at Durham Law School, Durham University, UK.
The relationship between private and public law has long been the focus of critical attention, but recent years have seen the intensification of a significant number of ‘public’ pressures on private law. These have taken the form of the growing influences of statutory intervention, public regulation, corporate globalisation, class actions and constitutional and international human rights norms. Such developments increasingly call into question the capacity of private law to operate in isolation from public law, public institutions and public goals. They invite a critical re-examination of the ways in which private and public law and the values and aims underpinning these fields relate to each other.

This collection makes a significant contribution to the current debate. It examines a number of key encounters between private law and public law and their respective value sets in the fields of charity law, property law, commercial law, tort law, human rights and the law of private law remedies (in particular remedies available in class actions). It also addresses important theoretical, definitional and taxonomic debates that influence the way in which these interactions may be understood and resolved. It includes essays from leading private law scholars and theorists drawn from several different jurisdictions in which these debates are increasingly prominent and important, including the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and the United States of America.
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