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978-1-107-08808-5 - A Parent-Partner Status for American Family Law

Merle H. Weiner

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A PARENT-PARTNER STATUS FOR AMERICAN FAMILY LAW

Despite the fact that becoming a parent is a pivotal event, the birth or adoption of a child has little significance for parents' legal relationship to each other. Instead, the law relies on marriage, domestic partnerships, contracts, and some equitable remedies to set the parameters of the legal obligations between parents. With high rates of nonmarital childbirth and divorce, the current approach to regulating the legal relationship of parents is outdated. A new legal and social structure is needed to encourage parents to act as supportive partners and to deter uncommitted couples from having children. This book is the first of its kind to propose a new "parent-partner" status for American family law. Included is a detailed discussion of the benefits of the status as well as specific recommendations for legal obligations.

Merle H. Weiner is the Philip H. Knight Professor of Law at the University of Oregon School of Law. In addition to authoring over twenty major law review articles, she is coauthor of *Family Law in the World Community* (3rd ed., 2015), the first casebook for U.S. law students studying comparative and international family law.

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Acknowledgments

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