FEMINIST JUDGMENTS: HEALTH LAW REWRITTEN

This book demonstrates how feminist analysis can transform law in a field where paternalism, individualism, gender stereotypes, and tensions over the publicprivate divide shape judicial decisions. Each chapter focuses on a single court decision related to health law. The decisions concern patient autonomy, informed consent, medical and nursing malpractice, the relationships among health care professionals and the institutions where they work, communications between health care providers and the patients they serve, end-of-life care, reproductive health care, biomedical research, ownership of human tissues and cells, the influence of religious directives on health care standards, health care discrimination, equitable access to long-term care in nursing homes, equitable access to community-based alternatives, private health insurance, Medicaid coverage, the Affordable Care Act, and more. Each chapter begins with a commentary from a scholar who puts the case in historical context, summarizes the original opinion, discusses what makes the rewritten opinion feminist, and describes how a feminist approach might have altered subsequent developments in health law. The feminist judgments take the form of rewritten majority opinions, concurrences, and dissents. The opinion authors are scholars who inhabit the role of a judge deciding the case. They rely exclusively on the factual record, precedents, and scientific understanding available at the time of the original decision to show how a judge with a feminist perspective could have adjudicated the matter differently.

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www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108495097

DOI: 10.1017/9781108860901

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First published 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data NAMES: Wiley, Lindsay F., 1977- author. | Mohapatra, Seema, author. TITLE: Feminist judgments : health law rewritten / edited by Seema Mohapatra, SMU Dedman School of Law, Dallas; Lindsay Wiley, UCLA School of Law, Los Angeles. DESCRIPTION: New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2022. | Series: Feminist judgments series | Includes bibliographical references and index. IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2022030483 (print) | LCCN 2022030484 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108495097 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108816922 (paperback) | ISBN 9781108860901 (epub) SUBJECTS: LCSH: Medical care-Law and legislation-United States-Cases. Feminist jurisprudence-United States. | BISAC: LAW / Health CLASSIFICATION: LCC KF3821 .F46 2022 (print) | LCC KF3821 (ebook) | DDC 344.7304/1-dc23/eng/20220831 LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2022030483 LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2022030484 ISBN 978-1-108-49509-7 Hardback ISBN 978-1-108-81692-2 Paperback

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Cambridge University Press & Assessment 978-1-108-49509-7 — Feminist Judgments: Health Law Rewritten Edited by Seema Mohapatra , Lindsay Wiley Frontmatter <u>More Information</u>

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Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Will Alter, Levi Baysinger, Margaret Chavez, Erin Donnelly, Paige Ferise, Janie Marso, Julianne Nolan, and Elizabeth Raterman for their excellent research assistance. We appreciate Bridget Crawford for going above and beyond the call of duty in her role as the series editor assigned to this volume. We thank our lucky stars for the good fortune of working with the phenomenal group of scholars who contributed to this volume as advisory panel members and authors. We are deeply grateful to our families for their support and understanding while we worked on this project in the midst of monumental disruption to all of our lives.