



Responsibility in Law and Morality

By Peter Cane

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Lawyers who write about responsibility focus on criminal law at the expense of civil and public law. Philosophers tend to treat responsibility as a moral concept, and either ignore the law or consider legal responsibility to be a more or less distorted reflection of its moral counterpart. This book aims to counteract both of these biases. By adopting a comparative institutional approach to the relationship between law and morality, it challenges the common view that morality stands to law as a critical standard to conventional practice. It shows how law and morality interact symbiotically, and how careful study of legal concepts of responsibility can add significantly to our understanding of responsibility more generally.

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Editorial Review

Review

.an impressive and comprehensive discussion of the treatment of responsibility in the law-a discussion that ranges across nearly every field of law, and across jurisdictions, supported by detailed references to cases and supplemented by knowledgeable summaries of commentary by lawyers, legal philosophers, and moral philosophers. Brian H. Bix *Ethics* Oct 06 Peter Cane has written an impressively wide-ranging and illuminating book a truly commendable piece of work. Cane's book deserves a large audience among legal, moral, and political philosophers. Matthew H. Kramer, *Cambridge University Philosophical Review* May 2005 .it offers a notably clear and robust formulation of a social approach towards responsibility. he has plenty of interesting and illuminating insights to offer. lawyers and philosophers alike will learn a great deal from this careful dissection of topics. Jeremy Watkins *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, Vol 26, No 3 (2006), pp 593-608 This is a wide-ranging, highly sophisticated work which looks at concepts of responsibility in law across a range of areas. Alan Norrie *Adelaide Law Review* May 2002 'Responsibility in Law and Morality' is a challenging and valuable book. Although I have criticised Cane's account of responsibility in this review, I do not wish to leave the reader with the impression that his book is anything but valuable and rewarding it is an illuminating study of responsibility in law. It is my view that modern lawyers have a great deal to learn from its approach. Accordingly, apart from being essential reading for anyone interested in legal theory, the book has much to teach any lawyer with even the smallest interest in the justifications of legal liability. Allan Beever *Melbourne University Law Review* May 2002

About the Author

For 20 years, Peter Cane taught law at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Since 1997 he has been a Professor of Law in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University.

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