Reading Law The Interpretation Of Legal Texts

Statutory and Common Law InterpretationCardinal Rules of Legal InterpretationPurposive Interpretation in LawReading LawLaw, Interpretation and RealityRealms of Legal InterpretationModern Legal InterpretationLaw and Legal InterpretationOrdinary MeaningLEGISLATING STATUTORY INTERPRETATIONAn Introduction to African Legal PhilosophyOn Contemporary Chinese Legal SystemA Dictionary of Statutory InterpretationA Preliminary Treatise on Evidence at the Common LawDynamic Statutory InterpretationLegislation and Statutory InterpretationThe Interpretation of Statutes and General Clauses Acts (central and States) with Words and PhrasesInterpretation, Law and the Construction of MeaningTraditional Tools of Statutory InterpretationStatutory Interpretation Kent Greenawalt Edward Beal Aharon Barak Antonin Scalia P.J. Nerhot Kent Greenawalt Marko Novak Fernando Atria Lemaitre Brian G. Slocum CHRISTOPHER. HUNT John Murungi Xiaobo Dong William D. Popkin James Bradley Thayer William N. Eskridge William N. Eskridge (Jr.) Narotam Singh Bindra Anne Wagner Michael Sinclair Yule Kim Statutory and Common Law Interpretation Cardinal Rules of Legal Interpretation Purposive Interpretation in Law Reading Law Law, Interpretation and Reality Realms of Legal Interpretation Modern Legal Interpretation Law and Legal Interpretation Ordinary Meaning LEGISLATING STATUTORY INTERPRETATION An Introduction to African Legal Philosophy On Contemporary Chinese Legal System A Dictionary of Statutory Interpretation A Preliminary Treatise on Evidence at the Common Law Dynamic Statutory Interpretation Legislation and Statutory Interpretation The Interpretation of Statutes and General Clauses Acts (central and States) with Words and Phrases Interpretation, Law and the Construction of Meaning Traditional Tools of Statutory Interpretation Statutory Interpretation Kent Greenawalt Edward Beal Aharon Barak Antonin Scalia P.J. Nerhot Kent Greenawalt Marko Novak Fernando Atria Lemaitre Brian G. Slocum CHRISTOPHER. HUNT John Murungi Xiaobo Dong William D. Popkin James Bradley Thayer William N. Eskridge William N. Eskridge (Jr.) Narotam Singh Bindra Anne Wagner Michael Sinclair Yule Kim

kent greenwalt s second volume on aspects of legal interpretation analyzes statutory and common law interpretation suggesting that multiple factors are important for each and that the relation between them influences both the book argues against any simple textualism claiming that even reader understanding of statutes depends partly on perceived intent in respect to common law interpretation use of reasoning by analogy is defended and any simple dichotomy of holding and dictum is resisted

this book presents a comprehensive theory of legal interpretation which allows all legal texts to be approached in a similar manne while remaining sensitive to their important differences

in this groundbreaking book scalia and garner systematically explain all the most important principles of constitutional statutory and contractual interpretation in an engaging and informative style with hundreds of illustrations from actual cases is a burrito a sandwich is a corporation entitled to personal privacy if you trade a gun for drugs are you using a gun in a drug transaction the authors grapple with these and dozens of equally curious questions while explaining the most principled lucid and reliable techniques for deriving meaning from authoritative texts meanwhile the book takes up some of the most controversial issues in modern jurisprudence what exactly is textualism why is strict construction a bad thing what is the true doctrine of originalism and which is more important the spirit of the law or the letter the authors write with a well argued point of view that is definitive yet nuanced straightforward yet sophisticated

patricknerhot since the two operations overlap each other so much speaking about fact and interpretation in legal science separately would undoubtedly be highly artificial to speak about fact in law already brings in the operation we call interpretation equally to speak about interpretation is to deal with the method of identifying reality and therefore in large part to enter the area of the question of fact by way of example bemard jackson s text which we have placed in section 11 of the first part of this volume could no doubt just as weh have found a horne in section i this work is aimed at analyzing this interpretation of the operation of identifying fact on the one hand and identifying the meaning of a text on the other all philosophies of law recognize themselves in the analysis they propose for this interpretation and we too shall seek in this volume to fumish a few elements of use for this analysis

we wish however to make it clear that our endeavour is addressed not only to legal philosophers the nature of the interpretive act in legal science is a matter of interest to the legal practitioner too he will find in these pages we believe elements that will serve hirn in reflection on his daily work

in realms of legal interpretation kent greenawalt focuses on how courts decide what is legally forbidden or authorized and how context shapes their decisions the problem he argues is that we do not and never have agreed exist on all the details of the standards united states judges should employ like everyone else judges have different ideas of what constitutes good common sense

legalism or legal formalism usually depicts judges as resolving cases by allegedly merely applying pre existing legal rules they do not seem to legislate exercise discretion balance or pursue policies and they definitely do not look outside of conventional legal texts for guidance in deciding new cases for them the law is an autonomous domain of knowledge and technique what they follow are the maxims of clarity determinacy and coherence of law this perception of law and adjudication is sometimes designated as an orthodox lawyering however at least in certain cases it is very difficult to say that legalism is not an inappropriate theory or a method of legal interpretation different theories have attested that legal interpretation is much more than just legalism which appears to be far too naïve in the framework of modern legal interpretation the following questions can be raised is it possible to integrate legalism in a coherent theory of legal interpretation is legalism as a distinctive theory of legal interpretation still a feasible theory of interpretation how can such a formalist approach withstand a critique from dworkinian moral interpretivism or accusations of being a myth masking political preferences from legal realists these and many other issues about legal interpretation are discussed in this book by prominent legal philosophers and legal theorists

this title was first published in 2003 leading contemporary essays on interpretation are assembled in this volume which offsets them against a small number of classical works from earlier periods it has long been recognized that textual sources constitutions statutes precedents commentaries are central to developed systems of law and that interpretation of such texts is one highly important element in adjudication legal practice and legal scholarship

scholars have also contended that the totality of legal activity is interpretive in a wider sense and debates about objectivity have raged the reasons for this development are here critically scrutinized

a legal scholar offers a bold new framework for legal interpretation with this deep thoughtful and useful examination of legal meaning william eskridge yale university consider a criminal sentencing provision that calls for enhanced punishment if a defendant uses a firearm during a drug crime has a defendant violated the provision if he trades a gun for drugs did he use the gun in the intended sense this sort of question is at the heart of legal interpretation legal interpretation typically follows the doctrine of ordinary meaning which is to say that words in legal texts should be interpreted in light of accepted standards of communication yet often courts fail to properly consider context refer to unsuitable dictionary definitions or otherwise misconceive how the ordinary meaning of words should be determined in this book brian slocum argues for a new method of interpretation by asking glaring yet largely ignored questions what makes one particular meaning the ordinary one and how exactly do courts conceptualize the elements of ordinary meaning ordinary meaning provides a much needed reassessment of how the components of ordinary meaning should properly be identified and developed in our modern legal system

a book on legal philosophy necessarily focuses attention on law in addition to this focus an introduction to an african legal philosophy focuses attention on philosophy the link between law and philosophy is brought into relief which is done through an african context an attempt is made to spell out what is african about legal philosophy without being cut off of african legal philosophy from non african legal philosophy the book draws attention to the view that a basic component of african legal philosophy consists of an investigation of what it is to be an african and because an african is a human being among other human beings the investigation is about what it is to be a human being ubuntuism is an african derived word that captures this mode of being human moreover because human beings are cultural beings african cultural context guides the investigation inescapably it is claimed that every legal philosophy is embedded in a culture african legal philosophy is not an exception it is deeply rooted in african culture a culture that is today shaped in part by a european colonialist culture one feature that will strike one as one reads the book is that the book approaches african legal philosophy as a means of decolonization of african culture african legal philosophy can accomplish this intelligently and effectively if it is itself decolonized in

doing this it contrasts sharply with mainstream western legal philosophy

this book delivers a comprehensive insightful and updated analytic description of contemporary chinese legal system from a macro perspective it presents both theoretically and empirically the evolution of chinese law describing its distinctive features comparing it with other experiences across the world and exploring the influence of economic social cultural and technological factors thereon from a micro perspective based on the latest laws and regulations so promulgated and relevant research this book briefly summarizes the basic theories and knowledge of existing law in the prc including the constitution civil law criminal law administrative law procedural law intellectual property law economic law etc with this book not only law students lawyers and those who have a background in chinese law but also general readers can catch a penetrating glimpse into the fast changing chinese legal system

statutory interpretation has become the most commonly required skill of the modern lawyer a dictionary of statutory interpretation provides a ready reference to the important terms and ideas that arise in connection with determining the meaning of legislation chapter 1 includes over 100 entries including the following ambiguity the absurdity canon linguistic and substantive canons legislative intent legislative purpose legislative history textualism legal realism law and economics each entry includes a definition an explanation of the relevance of the term and ideas for statutory interpretation some history about its use and a concise discussion of contemporary issues the author expresses his point of view in the discussion of these issues which is generally skeptical about textualism but presents all sides of the debate a reference section allows for further research on each subject chapter 2 includes over 35 famous quotations dealing with the interpretation of statutes along with historical and critical commentary the entries include learned hand holmes calabresi posner easterbrook pound blackstone etc the book will be useful for lawyers judges law professors and law students who want an entry into the contemporary debate about how to interpret legislation along with an insight into what is at stake in those debates filled with usefully extended treatments of important and interesting legal terms the green bag this book will be a useful tool for readers or libraries needing a good single volume guide to statutory interpretation summing up highly recommended choice librarians and researchers should consider a dictionary of statutory interpretation an

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contrary to traditional theories of statutory interpretation which ground statutes in the original legislative text or intent legal scholar william eskridge argues that statutory interpretation changes in response to new political alignments new interpreters and new ideologies it does so first of all because it involves richer authoritative texts than does either common law or constitutional interpretation statutes are often complex and have a detailed legislative history second congress can and often does rewrite statutes when it disagrees with their interpretations and agencies and courts attend to current as well as historical congressional preferences when they interpret statutes third since statutory interpretation is as much agency centered as judge centered and since agency executives see their creativity as more legitimate than judges see theirs statutory interpretation in the modern regulatory state is particularly dynamic eskridge also considers how different normative theories of jurisprudence liberal legal process and antiliberal inform debates about statutory interpretation he explores what theory of statutory interpretation if any is required by the rule of law or by democratic theory finally he provides an analytical and jurisprudential history of important debates on statutory interpretation

suitable for students or practitioners this authoritative overview of the legislative process and statutory interpretation moves smoothly and understandably between the theoretical and the practical you II find in depth discussion of such topics as theories of legislation and representation electoral and legislative structures extrinsic sources for statutory interpretation and substantive canons of statutory interpretation reap the benefits of the authors experience opinions and insight and gain a working knowledge of the area

the study of legal semiotics emphasizes the contingency and fluidity of legal concepts and stresses the existence of overlapping competing and coexisting legal discourses new problems changing power structures and societal norms and new faces of injustice all these force reconsideration reformulation and even replacement of established doctrines this book focuses on the application of law in a wide variety of contexts including international politics

and diplomatic practice

statutes are now the predominant source of law in our society the primary resource for legal decisions in all kinds and at all levels of legal practice this book is about the process of making and justifying legal decisions based on the interpretation and application of statutes it introduces and explains the methods of interpretation the traditional tools of statutory interpretation as justice stevens called them used by legal professionals in interpreting and applying statutes it covers techniques such as precedent relation to context canons of construction and more contentiously legislative history the focus is on explanation and justification with the aim of conveying the sort of understanding that will enable the reader to analyze novel cases and evaluate unfamiliar arguments about the author michael sinclair professor emeritus of new york law school is a native of new zealand where he received his early education a b a economics b a hon s first class in philosophy and a ph d in philosophy writing a dissertation on ludwig wittgenstein language games and forms of life in 1974 with the aid of a fulbright fellowship he followed a girl to the united states where he studied logic and grammar for two years before going to law school they are still married and have one daughter a musician he received a j d magna cum laude order of the coif from the university of michigan law school in 1978 and after three years in practice began teaching in 1981 he taught and wrote in a variety of subjects contracts torts commercial law intellectual property banking jurisprudence wills and trusts administrative law and statutory interpretation before retiring in 2012 he and his wife karen an anthropologist live in northport near the tip of michigan's leelanau peninsula

the supreme court has expressed an interest that congress be able to legislate against a background of clear interpretive rules so that it may know the effect of the language it adopts this report identifies and describes some of the more important rules and conventions of interpretation that the court applies although this report focuses primarily on the court s methodology in construing statutory text the court s approach to reliance on legislative history are also briefly described

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