

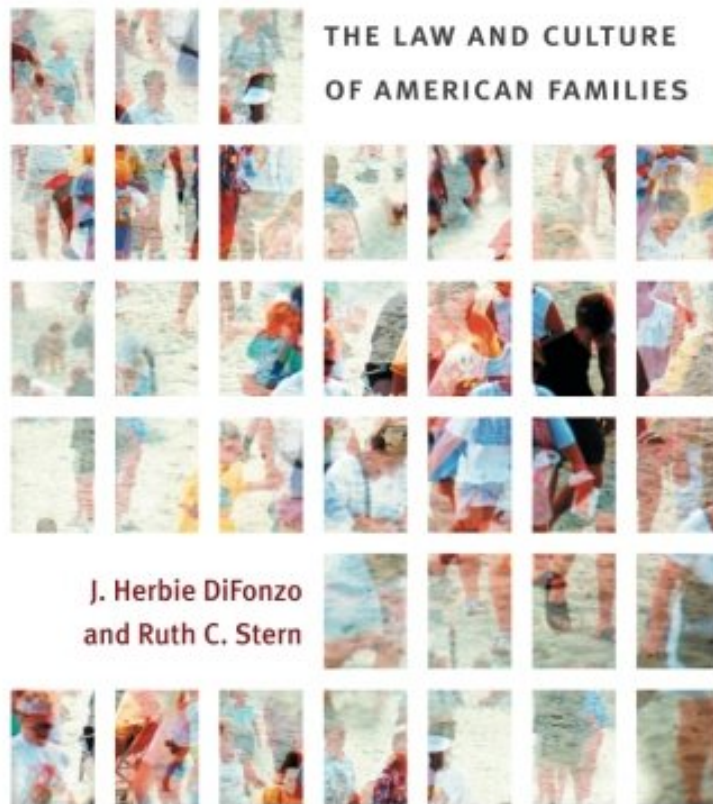
Intimate Associations: The Law and Culture of American Families

J. Herbie DiFonzo, Ruth C. Stern

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Intimate Associations



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J. Herbie DiFonzo, Ruth C. Stern : Intimate Associations: The Law and Culture of American Families before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Intimate Associations: The Law and Culture of American Families:

The rise in divorce, cohabitation, single parenthood, and same-sex partnerships, along with an increase in surrogacy,

adoption, and assisted reproductive technologies, has led to many diverse configurations of families, or intimate associations. J. Herbie DiFonzo and Ruth C. Stern chart these trends over the past several decades and investigate their social, legal, and economic implications. Drawing upon a wealth of social science data, they show that, by a number of measures, children of married parents fare better than children in a household formed by cohabiting adults. This is not to condemn nontraditional families, but to point out that society and the law do not yet adequately provide for their needs. The authors applaud the ways in which courts and legislatures are beginning to replace rigid concepts of marriage and parenthood with the more flexible concept of functional family roles. In the conclusion, they call for a legal system that can adapt to the continually changing reality of family life.

"Intimate Associations provides a fascinating overview of issues important to the role of family law and of families in contemporary society. It does a masterful job of presenting the dilemmas facing family law as it responds to changing family structures. By exploring the difficulties in adapting traditional doctrine to the realities of today's families, the book shows us where we've been, where we are, and the difficulties of moving forward. It nicely sets the stage to consider the limits of family law in addressing the increasingly classed nature of family structure." ---The Law and Culture of American Families