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## Lawyers and Fidelity to Law

*W. Bradley Wendel*

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**W. Bradley Wendel : Lawyers and Fidelity to Law** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lawyers and Fidelity to Law:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Scholarly EffortBy J. DavisI am a professor of law and director for a center on legal ethics. I also write in this area. Professor Wendel's book provides a clear and compelling argument (with which I disagree in key respects) about how legal theory applies to legal ethics. Anyone interested in an introduction to the subject would do well to read this book, as would any scholar writing in the area. Few scholars

are as thoughtful, sincere, and open-minded as Professor Wendel, which comes through time and again in the pages of this work.<sup>1</sup> of 16 people found the following review helpful. Lawyer Ethics Problems By Markie322 Lawyer Ethics The author is oblivious to the following self-evident truisms, and will not even understand why they are being brought up. 1) The profession is in utter failure in every single self-stated goal of every law subject. Name a law subject, and one can document utter failure. The duty to provide adequate service in the essential utility of the rule of law is nowhere getting carried out. 2) Human self regulation is impossible. 3) The lawyer profession is structured and managed like a criminal cult enterprise (CCE). Its sole success is in rent seeking, a synonym for armed robbery. It has supernatural doctrines as central doctrines. None can be shown to exist in nature. It therefore has to indoctrinate modern students without their consent into obeying the hierarchy of the CCE. 4) The profession takes in a \$trillion and returns little of any value. It also destroys or deters \$10 trillion a year in economic growth or activity by its immoral self-dealing. 5) Only 4 of the many good Rules of Conduct are ever enforced, and only when the complaint is filed by a member of the hierarchy, a judge. 6) The profession has absolute legal immunity from any accountability to the public. That immunity is self-dealt. The profession is among the worst of any society. The legal system of Sierra Leone may be better and less damaging than that of this country. Nor is there any legal recourse because the hierarchy of the CCE makes 99% of policy decision of the 3 branches of our government.

Even lawyers who obey the law often seem to act unethically--interfering with the discovery of truth, subverting justice, and inflicting harm on innocent people. Standard arguments within legal ethics attempt to show why it is permissible to do something as a lawyer that it would be wrong to do as an ordinary person. But in the view of most critics these arguments fail to turn wrongs into rights. Even many lawyers think legal ethics is flawed because it does not accurately describe the considerable moral value of their work. In *Lawyers and Fidelity to Law*, Bradley Wendel introduces a new conception of legal ethics that addresses the concerns of lawyers and their critics alike. Wendel proposes an ethics grounded on the political value of law as a collective achievement that settles intractable conflicts, allowing people who disagree profoundly to live together in a peaceful, stable society. Lawyers must be loyal and competent client representatives, Wendel argues, but these obligations must always be exercised within the law that constitutes their own roles and confers rights and duties upon their clients. Lawyers act unethically when they treat the law as an inconvenient obstacle to be worked around and when they twist and distort it to help their clients do what they are not legally entitled to do. *Lawyers and Fidelity to Law* challenges lawyers and their critics to reconsider the nature and value of ethical representation.

One of Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles for 2011 "This ambitious project is carefully executed and trenchantly defended. The book is especially good when confronting cases in which fidelity to the law appears to lead to perverse outcomes, such as encouraging obedience to unjust laws or making disobedience to unjust laws more difficult."--Choice  
From the Back Cover "Lawyers and Fidelity to Law presents a powerful statement of what, I am sure, will be an important position in legal ethics for years to come. By moving beyond the familiar debate between those who think legal ethics is almost totally insulated from ordinary ethics and those who think legal ethics is straightforwardly responsible to ordinary ethics, Wendel opens up an entirely new window on the subject. This is an ambitious and excellent book."--Daniel Markovits, Yale Law School  
"Lawyers and Fidelity to Law is a fine book that makes an important and original contribution to legal ethics. Wendel replaces each element of the standard conception of legal ethics with a more appealing substitute, and his writing is clear, lively, and well-illustrated."--Arthur I. Applbaum, Harvard University  
About the Author W. Bradley Wendel is professor of law at Cornell Law School.