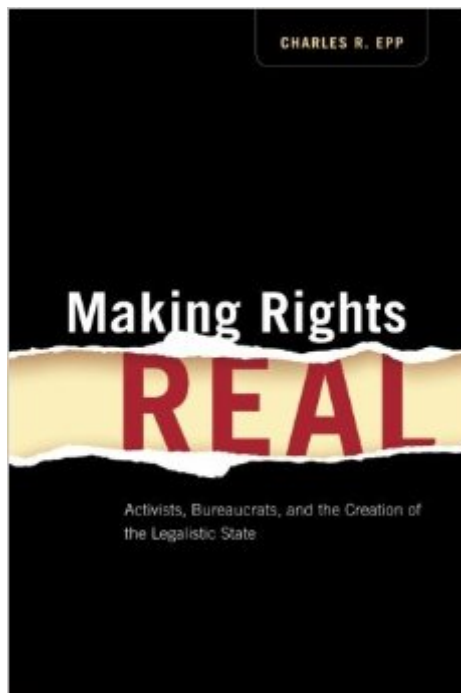


The book was found

Making Rights Real: Activists, Bureaucrats, And The Creation Of The Legalistic State (Chicago Series In Law And Society)



Synopsis

It's a common complaint: the United States is overrun by rules and procedures that shackle professional judgment, have no valid purpose, and serve only to appease courts and lawyers. Charles R. Epp argues, however, that few Americans would want to return to an era without these legalistic policies, which in the 1970s helped bring recalcitrant bureaucracies into line with a growing national commitment to civil rights and individual dignity. Focusing on three disparate policy areas—workplace sexual harassment, playground safety, and police brutality in both the United States and the United Kingdom—Epp explains how activists and professionals used legal liability, lawsuit-generated publicity, and innovative managerial ideas to pursue the implementation of new rights. Together, these strategies resulted in frameworks designed to make institutions accountable through intricate rules, employee training, and managerial oversight. Explaining how these practices became ubiquitous across bureaucratic organizations, Epp casts today's legalistic state in an entirely new light.

Book Information

Series: Chicago Series in Law and Society

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press; 1 edition (February 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0226211657

ISBN-13: 978-0226211657

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #721,808 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #167 in Books > Law > Business > Torts #303 in Books > Law > Constitutional Law > Civil Rights #401 in Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Political Science > Civil Rights

Customer Reviews

Like Epp's "Rights Revolution," "Making Rights Real" once again shows the importance of public interest litigation in motivating policymakers. In this book, Epp argues that the combination of legal liability arising from litigation and professional managers led to a revolution in public management. Using examples from police, parks, and sexual harassment, he shows that the threat of embarrassment from litigation induced agencies to adopt more stringent rules governing public

officials. Perhaps even more surprisingly, Epp finds that many public officials credit litigation with stimulating beneficial reforms within their agencies. Definitely recommended for students of social movements, bureaucracies, and legal reform.

An excellent researcher and a great teacher. Thank Dr. Epp.

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