



The Status of Religion and the Public Benefit in Charity Law

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Should religious charities be denied charitable status because of political incorrectness?

'The Status of Religion and the Public Benefit in Charity Law' is an apologetic for maintaining the presumption of public benefit for the charitable category 'advancement of religion' in democratic countries within the English common law tradition. The argument consists of three broad fronts. First, there is the quantitative approach that considers practical public benefits, such as church-run soup kitchens or summer camps. Second, there is the qualitative approach that considers the positive effects of religion – both tangible and intangible – in the lives of individuals. Third, there is the political approach that appeals to the notion of pluralism in a free and democratic society, where individuals are free to establish religious communities that engage in the public square. To varying degrees, all of these approaches are canvassed in this book.

Contents

Preface; Acknowledgements; Part I Concept and Practice of Public Benefit; 1. Have a Little Faith: The Advancement of Religion and Public Benefit, Juliet Chevalier-Watts; 2. Religion and Public Benefit: Social Scientific Perspectives and Critiques, Raymond B. Chiu; 3. The Public Benefit of 'Advancing Religion' as a Charitable Purpose, John Pellowe; Part II Advancement of Religion in the United Kingdom; 4. Religion and Public Benefit in United Kingdom Charity Law, Frank Cranmer; 5. Back at the Bar: Charity Law, Public Benefit and a Case of Legal 'déjà vu' for the Exclusive Brethren, Bernard Doherty; Part III Public Benefit and the Advancement of Religion in Canada; 6. Advancing Religion in a 'Neutral' State: Understanding Religion as a Constitutional Good, Derek Ross and Ian Sinke; 7. Making Registered Charitable Status of Religious Organizations Subject to 'Charter Values', Barry W. Bussey; 8. Just Check the Box: Why Religious Institutions Still Make Canada a Better Place to Live and Flourish, Janet Epp Buckingham; Part IV Conclusion; 9. The Goal of Excluding Religion from the Idea of Public Benefit: Some Aspects of Neo-Secularist Strategies, Iain T. Benson; Contributors; Index.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

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