CONSTITUTIONALIZING THE PRIVATE SPHERE

Do private actors have constitutional duties? While traditionally only government actors are responsible for upholding constitutional rights, courts and constitution-makers increasingly do assign constitutional duties to private actors as well. Therefore, a landlord may have constitutional duties to their tenants, and a sports club may even have duties to its fans. This book argues that this phenomenon of applying rights "horizontally" can be understood through the lens of republican political theory. Themes echoing such concepts as the common good and civic duty from republican thought recur in discourses surrounding horizontal application. Christina R. Bambrick traces republican themes in debates from the United States, India, Germany, South Africa, and the European Union. While these contexts have vastly different histories and aspirations, constitutional actors in each place have considered the horizontal application of rights and, in doing so, made republican arguments.

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A Comparative Inquiry

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Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

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Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009293730

DOI: 10.1017/9781009293723

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009293723

First published 2024

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Names: Bambrick, Christina R, author.
Title: Constitutionalizing the private sphere : a comparative inquiry / Christina R Bambrick, University of Notre Dame, Indiana.
Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2024. | Includes bibliographical references and index.
Identifiers: LCCN 2024015836 (print) | LCCN 2024015837 (ebook) | ISBN 9781009293730 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009293709 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009293723 (epub)
Subjects: LCSH: Constitutional law–Philosophy. | Civil rights–Philosophy. | Equality before the law–Philosophy. | Republicanism–Philosophy. | Social change–Philosophy. | Local government. | Civil society.
Classification: LCC K3240 .B3595 2024 (print) | LCC K3240 (ebook) | DDC 342.08/501–dc23/eng/20240409
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2024015836
LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2024015837

ISBN 978-1-009-29373-0 Hardback

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