CAN THE PUBLIC BE TRUSTED?

When do citizens voluntarily comply with regulations rather than act out of fear of sanctions? *Can the Public Be Trusted?* challenges prevailing regulatory paradigms by examining when democratic states can rely on voluntary compliance. Drawing on behavioral science, law, and public policy research, Yuval Feldman explores why voluntary compliance, despite often yielding superior and more sustainable outcomes, remains underutilized by policymakers. Through empirical analysis of policy implementation in COVID-19 response, tax compliance, and environmental regulation, Feldman examines trust-based governance's potential and limitations. The book presents a comprehensive framework for understanding how cultural diversity, technological change, and institutional trust shape voluntary cooperation. By offering evidence-based insights, Feldman provides practical recommendations for balancing trust, accountability, and enforcement in regulatory design. This book is essential reading for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners seeking to optimize regulatory outcomes through enhanced voluntary compliance. This title is also available as open access on Cambridge Core.

Yuval Feldman directs the Voluntary Compliance (VComp) Lab at Bar-Ilan University, integrating behavioral science, legal theory, and regulatory compliance. He has published over eighty articles in leading law and social science journals and received numerous honors, including a European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant and the Bruno Award. His book *The Law of Good People* (Cambridge, 2018) develops a framework for understanding the interaction between behavioral ethics, compliance, and regulation.

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ON THE PROMISE AND PERILS OF VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE

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www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781316512210

DOI: 10.1017/9781009057998

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009057998

First published 2025

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

A Cataloging-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

ISBN 978-1-316-51221-0 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-06094-3 Paperback

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