

# Sociology of Law



# Sociology of Law

FOURTH EDITION

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# Preface to the Fourth Edition

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The fourth edition of *Sociology of Law* has been greatly revised. Many new developments in the field have necessitated a wider framework and significant updating. I have benefited from teaching a similarly titled course at least a dozen times since the third edition in 2003. Student feedback has been useful in revising the present edition. The outside reviewers of the book proposal were also quite helpful in rethinking content for inclusion. The book has been expanded significantly, without losing the overall intent of introducing students to sociology of law. Researchers can also use it for reference material. General interest readers will find it illuminating reading. It can also be adopted for law school courses seeking to provide a more sociological understanding of law. The field continues to grow and is witnessing an increasingly greater readership. The book makes no claims to be exhaustive. It offers some basic understandings in the field, orientations, and tools for more critical inquiry. The earlier chapters in Part 1, “Orientations and Classical Foundations for Sociology of Law” (Chapters 1–5), orient the reader to the field. They are meant to be read sequentially, building a base from which to engage the second part of the book. Part 2, “Perspective in the Sociology of Law,” has greatly expanded from four chapters to seven. Many topics are provocative. They are meant for engagement, for constructive critical reading. Review questions have been added to each chapter to provide a review and an opportunity for application of the material covered. Sociology of law is a multidisciplinary field that necessitates discussion at multiple, interconnected levels. The approach distinguishes itself from law school education in that law school is more singular preparing the student to practice law. Sociology of law looks at the historical development of particular forms of law, their functions, their origination, forms of reasoning, their inclusions and exclusions in a political economy. It offers tools and concepts with which to rethink law, how it can be otherwise, how it can be more inclusive, how it can be more just.

Dragan Milovanovic  
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