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Book Review

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Ebers, Martin, and Susana Navas, eds. *Algorithms and Law*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021. 297p. $110.

*Reviewed by Aamir S. Abdullah**

¶7 *Algorithms and Law* is a collected volume of topics dealing with the intersection of law and algorithms, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and robotics. Although it reads as a cohesive work, each chapter is written to stand alone. Overall, the book gives the impression of a Wikipedia spiral down a rabbit hole—and this reviewer means that in the best way. Interwoven through each chapter is the notion that the law must adapt to our world's rapidly advancing technology. These chapters provide insight, depth, direction, and thought-provoking analyses.

¶8 Algorithms comprise all software, and these algorithms base decisions on inferences that ultimately and merely determine correlations. These algorithms are then used to presumably make life easier, but to achieve this comfort, people must give up their personal data. As algorithms continue to advance in the realm of AI and machine learning, multiple issues arise in a wide range of legal areas: ethics, security, liability, privacy, regulation, and even ownership. Thankfully, *Algorithms and Law* addresses all these concerns.

¶9 This dense book is divided into 10 chapters, with each chapter written by one to three authors and covering a separate topic. Topics range from liability for harms done by AI systems to the commercialization of digital data. Because of the dense material and sheer volume of information, readers may find it burdensome to read the book as a single narrative, which is not a shortcoming; the book should be enjoyed piecemeal. That is to say, each chapter should be savored and parsed with a fine-toothed comb. Readers should not simply expect to read a chapter the whole way through without being ready to highlight and take notes along the way. Fortunately, the book was released in both analog and digital formats, making this an easier task regardless of one's preferences.

¶10 Every chapter of *Algorithms and Law* provides a plethora of footnotes, adding to the value of the content. These footnotes are, in this reviewer's opinion, the best feature of *Algorithms and Law*. The chapters themselves are comprehensive and written for a wide audience, but the footnoted citations continue the reader's journey.

¶11 Robots (both physical instances and digital AI) are now found almost everywhere: "The spectrum of applications using AI is already enormous, ranging from virtual assistants, automatic news aggregation, image and speech recognition, translation software, automated financial trading, and legal eDiscovery to self-driving cars and automated weapon systems" (p.41). The prevalence of algorithms points up the importance of this book.

¶12 *Algorithms and Law* focuses on Western society, particularly the United States and Europe. One author argues that "[t]he European Union is a pioneer in the regula-

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tion of automated (algorithmic) decision-making" (pp.xviii–xix). Readers should be aware that the U.S.-Europe focus overlooks work being done in other parts of the world.

¶13 A more minor shortcoming: readers will find some typos and a formatting issue in certain chapters. However, these minor flaws should not detract from the overall gravitas of the material presented. If these minor issues bother a reader, it will be the only issues a reader complains about.

¶14 This book invites readers to address a plethora of technology issues and discusses applicable regulations and laws. Overall, this book is recommended for any institution that values engaging in the conversation about technology's impact on the law.

Goldfarb, Ronald. *The Price of Justice: Money, Morals, and Ethical Reform in the Law*. Nashville: Turner Publishing, 2020. 210p. $27.99.

Reviewed by Phebe E. Huderson-Poydras[*]

¶15 Ronald Goldfarb's *The Price of Justice: Money, Morals, and Ethical Reform in the Law* lays out a compelling argument for justice reform. Goldfarb methodically examines the legal system, comparing what the legal profession aspires to be with what it has become. He similarly assesses legal education, demonstrating inherent shortcomings that may contribute to our legal system's problems. Part and parcel of this analysis, Goldfarb further casts light on how those with money often have an unfair advantage over those without, which significantly impacts lawyer ethics, morality, and the fair administration of justice in our legal system. He poignantly proves that our justice system is problematic and requires change, presenting a very timely read.

¶16 Throughout *The Price of Justice*, Goldfarb juxtaposes the representation given to indigent defendants to that given the wealthy, examining this comparison through the lenses of money, morality, and ethics. Goldfarb thoroughly assesses the justice system, both criminal and civil. Using case law and the writings of legal professionals, he further establishes the need for reform.

¶17 A well-organized work, *The Price of Justice* includes a foreword written by Senator Bernie Sanders, an introduction, five chapters, and an index. In the introduction, Goldfarb applauds diversity (racial and gender) and technological advances in the law. However, he laments changes that have caused law practice to become a business. This business model makes it more likely that wealthy clients will receive better access to justice than those who are not.

¶18 Goldfarb's argument for justice reform begins by exploring two myths that underlie the legal profession. The first is that lawyers do what they do because they are bound to their clients—in essence, zealously representing their clients because they have no other choice. The second is that lawyers do what they do because of the wisdom embedded in the adversarial system's operation. Goldfarb provides thorough examples

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