

ES 645
**Environmental
Law & Policy**

Lecture 2

Definitions of “Law”



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Law

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A **law** or a **rule**, is usually made by a government, that is used to order the way in which a society behaves.

Source: <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/law>

Often the **law** is the system of rules which a particular country or community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members and which it may enforce by the imposition of penalties.

Source: <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/law>



Law

[1] The “**law**” is a binding custom or practice of a community : a rule of conduct or action prescribed or formally recognized as binding or enforced by a controlling authority.

[2] The “**law**” is the whole body of such customs, practices or rules.

Source: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/law>



Law

- A rule of conduct or procedure established by custom, agreement, or authority.
- The body of rules and principles governing the affairs of a community and enforced by a political authority; a legal system: international law.
- The condition of social order and justice created by adherence to such a system: a breakdown of law and civilized behaviour.
- A set of rules or principles dealing with a specific area of a legal system: tax law; criminal law.
- A statute, ordinance, or other rule enacted by a legislature.
- A judicially established legal requirement; a precedent.

Source: <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/law>



Law

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The binding rules of conduct meant to enforce justice and prescribe duty or obligation, and derived largely from custom or formal enactment by a ruler or legislature. These laws carry with them the power and authority of the enactor, and associated penalties for failure or refusal to obey. Law derives its legitimacy ultimately from universally accepted principles such as the essential justness of the rules, or the sovereign power of a parliament to enact them.

Source: <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/law.html#ixzz3gkBbS4K5>



King [Hammurabi](#) is revealed the [code of laws](#) by the Mesopotamian sun god [Shamash](#), also revered as the god of justice.

Source:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law>

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https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Milkau_Oberer_Teil_der_Stele_mit_dem_Text_von_Hammurapis_Gesetzescodex_3692.jpg#/media/File:Milkau_Oberer_Teil_der_Stele_mit_dem_Text_von_Hammurapis_Gesetzescodex_39-2.jpg



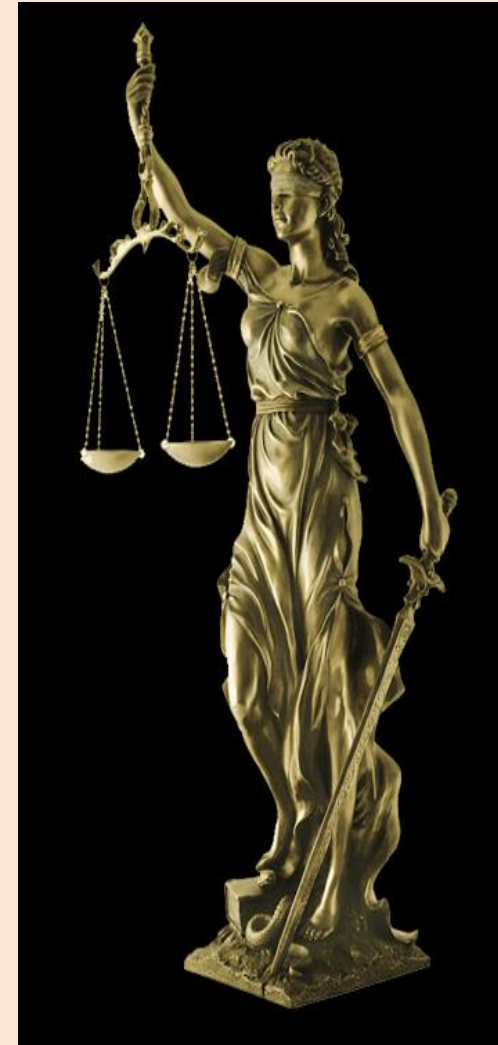
Lady Justice

Source: "Statua Iustitiae" by Deval Kulshrestha
- File:1660 blk 19329 zoom.png.

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https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Statua_Iustitiae.jpg#/media/File:Statua_Iustitiae.jpg

Lady Justice, a goddess symbolising justice who bears a sword – symbolising the coercive power of a tribunal –, scales – representing an objective standard by which competing claims are weighed – and a blindfold indicating that justice should be impartial and meted out objectively, without fear or favor and regardless of money, wealth, power or identity.





Law



Munivarya Vyasa has included a short story of *Tuladhar Vaishya* in *Mahabharata*. He was connecting his daily actions in trade and commerce with the service of human beings he was serving to. He spent all his energies and concentrated on keeping the two pan of the scale in the “perfect balance”.

Source: “Geeta Pravachane” by Vinoba Bhave (1932)

Source: "Scale of justice 2" by DTR - Own work. Licensed under Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Scale_of_justice_2.svg#/media/File:Scale_of_justice_2.svg



Law

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Law is a [system](#) of rules that are [enforced through social institutions](#) to govern behaviour. Laws can be made by legislatures through legislation (resulting in [statutes](#)), the executive through [decrees](#) and [regulations](#), or judges through binding [precedent](#) (normally in [common law](#) jurisdictions). Private individuals can create legally binding [contracts](#), including (in some jurisdictions) arbitration agreements that may elect to accept alternative arbitration to the normal court process. The formation of laws themselves may be influenced by a [constitution](#) (written or unwritten) and the [rights](#) encoded therein. The law shapes [politics](#), [economics](#), [history](#) and [society](#) in various ways and serves as a mediator of relations between [people](#).

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law>



Law

Law can be divided up in a number of ways. It can be divided into 'statute law' and 'common law', and can also be divided into 'public law' and 'private law'. Under this system, public law deals with relations between individuals and the state, and private law deals with relations between individuals (meaning individual people or organisations). Another way to think about the law and what it does is to look at what sort of behaviour or relationships it deals with. So, we can divide law up into: criminal law; civil law; and administrative law.

Source: *Australian Legal System*, Hot Topics 79, 2011, pg 6

as quoted by:

<http://guides.sl.nsw.gov.au/content.php?pid=293537&sid=2436761>

End of Lecture # 2

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