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Book Review

Mitchell M. Simon
University of New Hampshire School of Law

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Book Reviews

CODES OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (Rena A. Gorlin, ed., BNA Books 1990). Foreword by Frances B. Thomas, M.S.W. 555 pp. Resource lists. Three indices: issues; professions; organizations. LC 89-48019; ISBN 0-87179-641-4. [\$48.00, P.O.B. 7816, Edison NJ 08818-7816.]

This edition includes 43 codes promulgated by the major professional associations in business, health, and law. Many of these codes would otherwise be difficult to find. Therefore, if the volume did no more than compile them, it would constitute a major contribution to the field of ethics. However, it does much more.

Each code is preceded by a brief description of the relevant association, including its address and phone number, and information relating to implementation and enforcement. Also, the book concludes with three helpful resource lists including: first, research centers, educational programs and governmental bodies dealing with ethical issues; second, journals and periodical services; and, third, bibliographies, databases and libraries with special ethics collections. The resource sections and indices should be of great use to anyone doing research on ethics.

Historically, members of our society who call themselves "professionals" have had a major impact. One of the things which distinguish such organizations is a code of ethics. Codes of professional responsibility define the substantive standards for admission and subsequent discipline. This volume provides interested parties an opportunity to evaluate whether a organization's claim to self-regulation or other special status is warranted. More importantly, it provides a context through which persons from different disciplines can better understand each other. This type of understanding facilitates the interdisciplinary decision making necessary to address some of our most pressing societal problems.

A compilation of various codes of ethics and resource lists does not provide overly interesting reading. However, **CODES OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY** is a book which many individuals and libraries will find of value. I have used the book extensively during the brief period I have owned it.

Mitchell M. Simon, Franklin Pierce Law Center