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Richard Ward • Amanda Wragg

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WALKER & WALKER'S ENGLISH LEGAL SYSTEM

Ninth Edition

RICHARD WARD

*Professor of Public Law and Head of the Department of Law,
De Montfort University*

AMANDA WRAGG

Senior Lecturer in Law, De Montfort University

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PREFACE

The last seven years since the Eighth edition of this book have seen wholesale change and reform in virtually every aspect of the legal system. The aim of the book remains unchanged: to provide an accessible and relatively concise exposition of the main principles, rules, and issues. In writing this new edition we have sought, within the constraints of length, to reflect the areas and emphasis that we have found from our own experience to be important to the modern generation of students.

The aims of the book are one of the few things that have remained unchanged. The preparation of this edition has entailed wholesale rewriting, and a very large proportion of the book is to all intents and purposes new. By way of illustration, the chapters on the Human Rights Act 1998, on tribunals, on legal services, and on the civil process are almost entirely new, and the chapters on criminal justice and the courts are scarcely recognizable. We have sought to accommodate this vast morass of change whilst holding to the best qualities that this book has traditionally had.

In an area as wide and diverse as that covered by this book, input from a variety of individuals has helped us in developing our own understanding and perspectives. Needless to say we take responsibility for any errors or omissions. We would particularly like to thank our publishers for their ongoing support and seemingly inexhaustible patience.

On a more personal note, Richard Ward would like to thank Sarah for her unfailing support and greatly valued encouragement.

Amanda Wragg would like to thank Jang, and her parents Norma and Graham, for their love and seemingly endless patience.

We have stated the Law as we believe it to be as of 1 April 2005, but where possible we have sought at proof stage to reflect any later changes.

Richard Ward
Amanda Wragg

Leicester, April 2005

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