TAXATION OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

CASES AND MATERIALS
THIRD EDITION

James J. Fishman Stephen Schwarz

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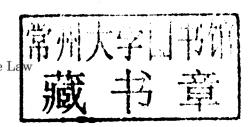
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Stanley Morrison Professor of Law and Former Dean of the School of Law Stanford University To Liz, Lisi, Diana, and Sophie

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SS

PREFACE

This text has been adapted from the Fourth Edition of our companion casebook, Nonprofit Organizations: Cases and Materials. It is offered as an alternative text for J.D. and LL.M courses and seminars that focus primarily on the taxation of charitable and other nonprofit organizations. Before the First Edition of Nonprofit Organizations was published in 1995, some law schools offered courses in the field, ranging from global surveys to more specialized tax offerings, but instructors and curricular growth were hindered by a dearth of published teaching materials. Our goal was to help fill the void by crafting a book to ease the burden on experienced teachers and entice newcomers to teach, study and practice in this fascinating and dynamic area.

Over the past two decades, the law of the nonprofit sector emerged from the shadows and became recognized as a distinct legal discipline. Today, the maturity of this field of study is reflected in the increasing number of law schools offering nonprofit organizations courses as well as the publication of several other casebooks. The field has appeal to students and teachers with interests in wide-ranging areas such as corporations, taxation, estate planning, constitutional law, antitrust, law and economics, environmental law, health law, and public interest law. These legal issues are increasingly of interest, we think, because so many lawyers and law students become involved with nonprofit organizations as directors, trustees, members, and volunteers, and in those capacities they are frequently called upon for advice.

With an expanding body of law and such a potentially diverse constituency, each new edition presents a challenge of covering those topics of greatest importance and yet preserving flexibility for instructors with different emphasis and expertise, all while keeping the book to a manageable length. In keeping with this philosophy, our texts have been designed as up-to-date teaching tools adaptable to a wide range of offerings. Based on our collective experience, we continue to believe that the best J.D. level nonprofits courses are "interdisciplinary," covering both the state law perspective (e.g., formation, governance, and enforcement) as well as federal tax issues. Even in tax-focused courses, students benefit greatly from exposure to the full range of legal issues. But we understand that some instructors prefer to limit coverage to tax issues and teach by the problem method. This version accommodates their needs

As with its parent, Taxation of Nonprofit Organizations includes a wide variety of materials—edited cases, legislative history, excerpts from scholarly articles and books, writings from other disciplines, and authoritative IRS administrative materials. For most topics, it provides extensive authors' text, notes, questions, bibliographic references for further reading,

and problems for class discussion. To enliven the coverage, the notes and questions frequently refer to the rich array of real world controversies and news reports, offering an opportunity for students to evaluate critically the increasingly publicized underside of the nonprofit sector.

This Third Edition incorporates many new developments occurring during the four-year shelf life of its predecessor, including the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, the most comprehensive legislation affecting charitable nonprofits since 1969. The IRS also has been busy, ratcheting up its scrutiny of hospitals and universities, redesigning the Form 990 information return, issuing new regulations on the public support tests that enable charities to avoid private foundation status, and expanding its jurisdiction over governance matters that traditionally have been a prerogative of the states. And this revision is more than just an update. Concerned that the barrage of new developments and the authors' voracious appetites were causing the book to gain far too much weight, we revisited every chapter with the goal of pruning wherever possible. Some of the longer cases and notes have been edited, and dated or redundant materials were removed. Although this edition still may have too many details for some (and not enough for others), it is almost 70 pages shorter than its predecessor-no small feat given the long-winded proclivities of the legal and academic professions.

Turning to the specifics of organization and coverage, the book consists of four parts. Part One (Chapter 1), an introduction, bridges theory and practice. It begins by describing the universe of nonprofits and their role in the economy and society, and by addressing the principal theoretical rationales for the nonprofit sector. If the study of nonprofit organizations has serious academic merit, as we believe it does, theoretical questions such as why the nonprofit sector exists should be addressed at an early point and revisited frequently. Chapter 1 also provides a brief history of nonprofit organizations in the United States and introduces the federal tax treatment of charities, which are the dominant presence in the sector. The introductory chapter concludes on a practical note by providing a concise overview of the nontax considerations affecting choice of legal form for a nonprofit organization and an introductory problem to set the stage for the details that follow.

Part Two (Chapters 2–4) is devoted to charitable organizations. Chapter 2 covers the affirmative requirements and operational limitations faced by organizations seeking tax-exempt status as charities under § 501(c)(3), with more abbreviated coverage of state and local tax exemption issues. This edition incorporates a number of important new qualification developments, ranging from the evolving definition of charity, the increasing scrutiny of hospitals and universities by Congress and the IRS, and continuing concerns over excessive compensation and political activities.

Chapter 3 addresses the dynamic issue of commercial activities—their impact on qualification for tax exemption; the unrelated business income tax; and the special challenges and planning opportunities presented by

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complex structures such as taxable subsidiaries and joint ventures. Chapter 4 turns to the distinction between private foundations and public charities, first describing the universe of private foundations and grantmaking alternatives, such as donor-advised funds and supporting organizations. It goes on to identify strategies to avoid private foundation status and surveys the regulatory challenges facing organizations unable to escape the private foundation regulatory regime.

Part Three (Chapter 5) is devoted to law and philanthropy from the perspective of donors and fundraisers. It includes a mix of basic and advanced materials on the charitable contributions deduction and planned giving opportunities.

Part Four (Chapter 6) shifts the focus to mutual benefit organizations, such as trade associations, labor unions, social clubs, and fraternal organizations, and surveys some special problems of private membership associations.

To complement the main casebook and this alternative version, we have prepared a separate and completely updated softbound Supplement (Nonprofit Organizations: Statutes, Regulations and Forms), which contains excerpts from the ABA's recently published "third edition" of the Model Nonprofit Corporation Act, the nonprofit corporation laws of several leading jurisdictions, the Uniform Prudent Investor Act, the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act, and selected sections of the Restatements of Trusts and other statutes. The Supplement also includes all relevant sections of the Internal Revenue Code and Treasury Regulations; important IRS forms, such as the redesigned Form 990 information return and the Form 1023 application for § 501(c)(3) exemption; sample articles and bylaws for a nonprofit corporation; a simple charitable trust instrument; and a sample conflict of interest policy. Suggested assignments to Statutes, Regulations and Forms are provided in bold type at the beginning of most sections of the casebook.

As for other matters of style and format, we have edited cases and other original sources freely to make them more accessible to students. Citations and internal cross references in excerpted materials have been deleted without so indicating. Textual omissions are indicated by asterisks, and editorial additions are in brackets. Many footnotes from original sources have been omitted without renumbering those that remain. Our goal was to make the text gender neutral, and we have tried to alternate between masculine and feminine pronouns to represent both sexes. Coverage in this edition is current through May 1, 2010.

This has been a collaborative effort in the best sense, and many who teach, write and practice in the field have graciously offered their advice and encouragement. We owe special thanks to John Simon, who has done so much to nurture the field, for his many helpful insights during the preparation of the First Edition; to Harvey Dale, the founder and director of the National Center on Philanthropy and the Law at New York Universi-

ty School of Law, who has encouraged this project from its incubation stage and offered us the unique opportunity to present our work-in-progress to leading scholars and practitioners at an invitational conference at NYU; and to Bill Hutton, who generously allowed us to adapt problems and colorful characters that he developed and refined over many years. We also are grateful to the other participants in the NYU conference: Bob Boisture, Laura Chisolm, Marion Fremont-Smith, Harvey Goldschmid, Carlyn McCaffrey, Peter Swords and Jill Manny. And thanks too to Rob Atkinson. whose views on the appropriate model for a law school nonprofits course greatly stimulated our thinking; to Miriam Galston for her meticulous editing and valuable substantive comments; and to John Colombo, Mike Klausner, Evelyn Brody and Ellen Aprill for their scholarly contributions to the field and thoughtful suggestions on coverage and content. Any errors or other transgressions, of course, remain those of the authors—and for this version, that means Professor Schwarz, who bears primary responsibility for the tax chapters.

Professor Fishman also wishes to thank the Brooklyn and Pace University Schools of Law, which provided research support; NYU School of Law's National Center on Philanthropy and the Law, which provided access to its philanthropy library; and Kate Fitzpatrick, Brooklyn Law School class of 2009 and Alexandra Campbell–Ferrari, Pace Law School class of 2012, who served as research assistants during the preparation of this edition. Professor Schwarz extends thanks to Hastings College of the Law for its ongoing institutional support; Adele Dorison and Barbara Rosen, for their invaluable assistance as research assistants and editors on earlier editions; and the students in his classes over many years at the University of Florida, NYU, Arizona State, and Hastings (particularly the spring 2010 class), who endured rough early drafts and later helped to improve many of the problems and other materials.

And last but hardly least, we are grateful for the support of our families, friends, and colleagues, and for their understanding of the demands of producing a first edition and keeping it current.

James J. Fishman Stephen Schwarz

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